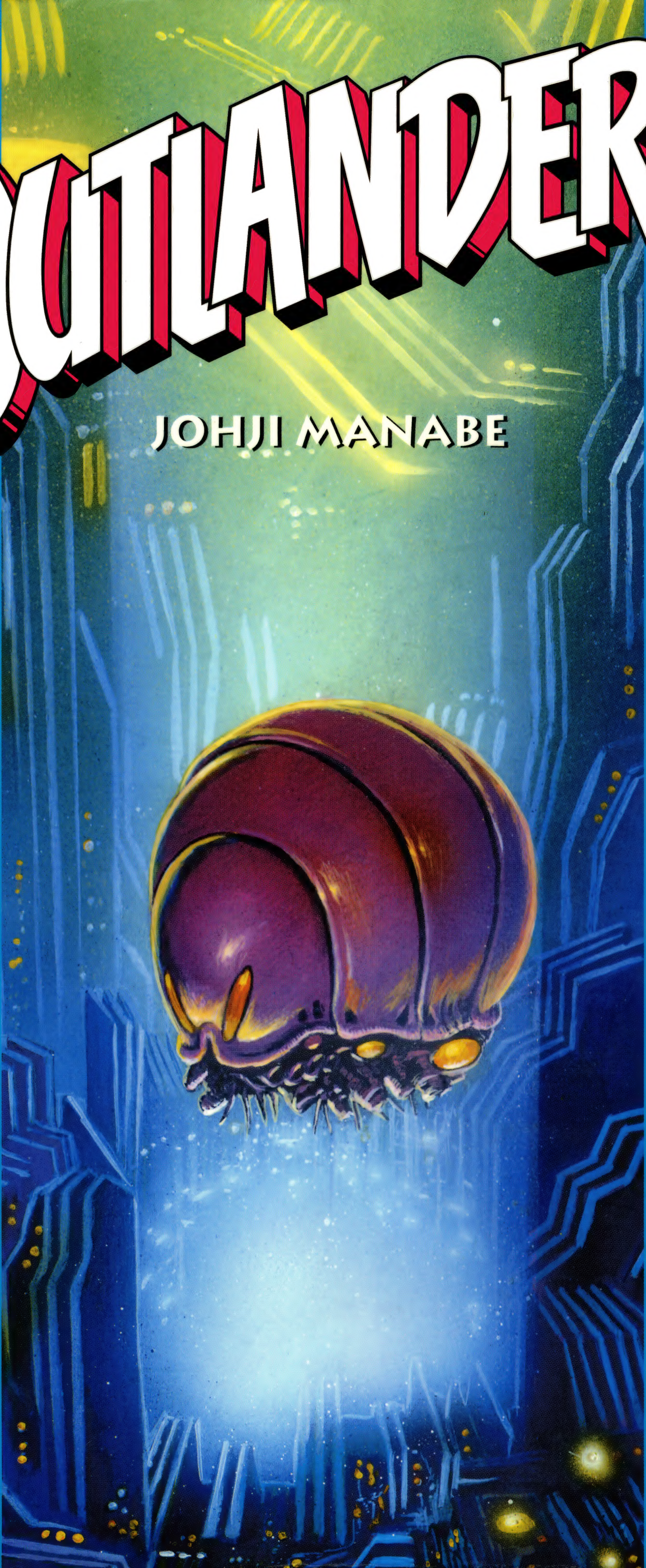
VOLUME
2

OUTLANDERS™

JOHJI MANABE



OUTLANDERS™

VOLUME 2

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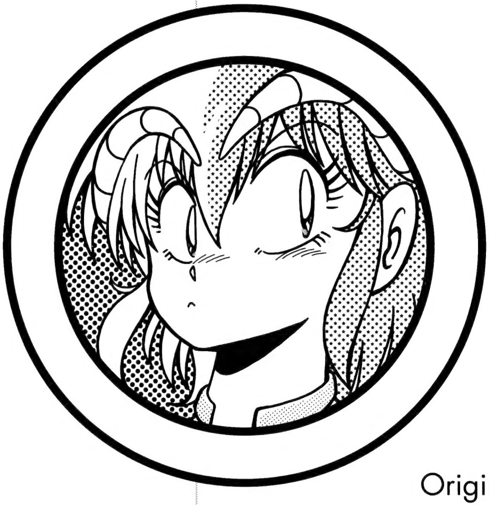

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OUTLANDERS™

VOLUME 2

story and art
JOHJI MANABE

translation
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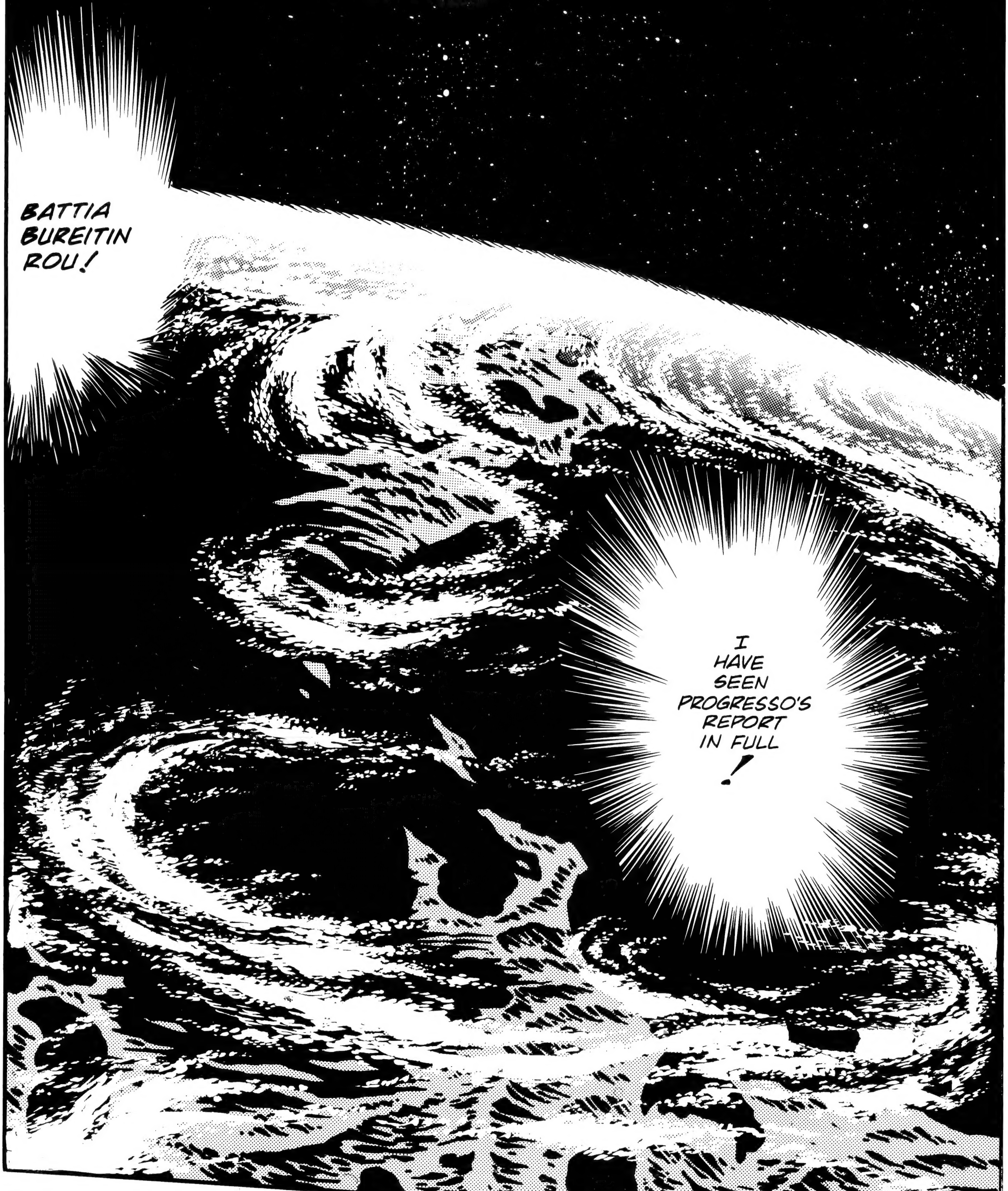
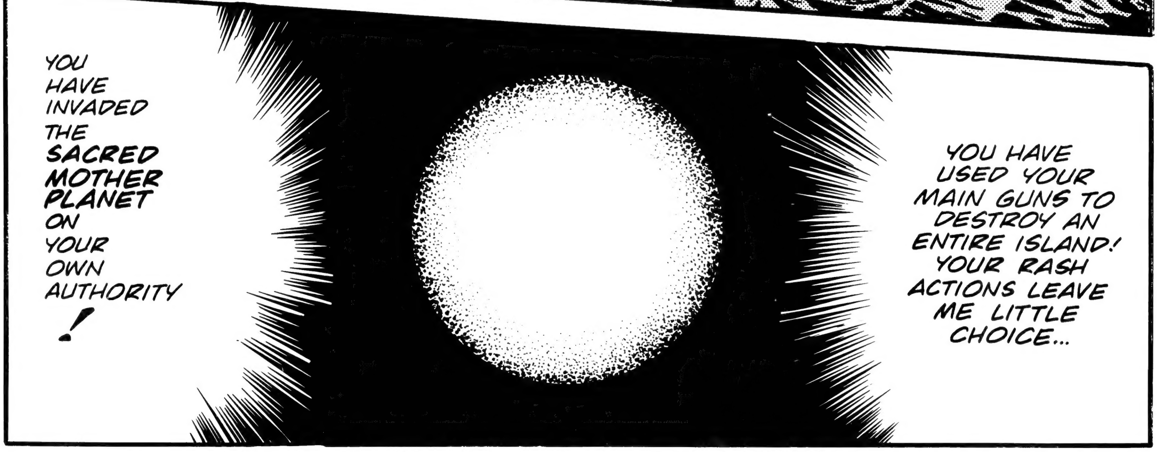
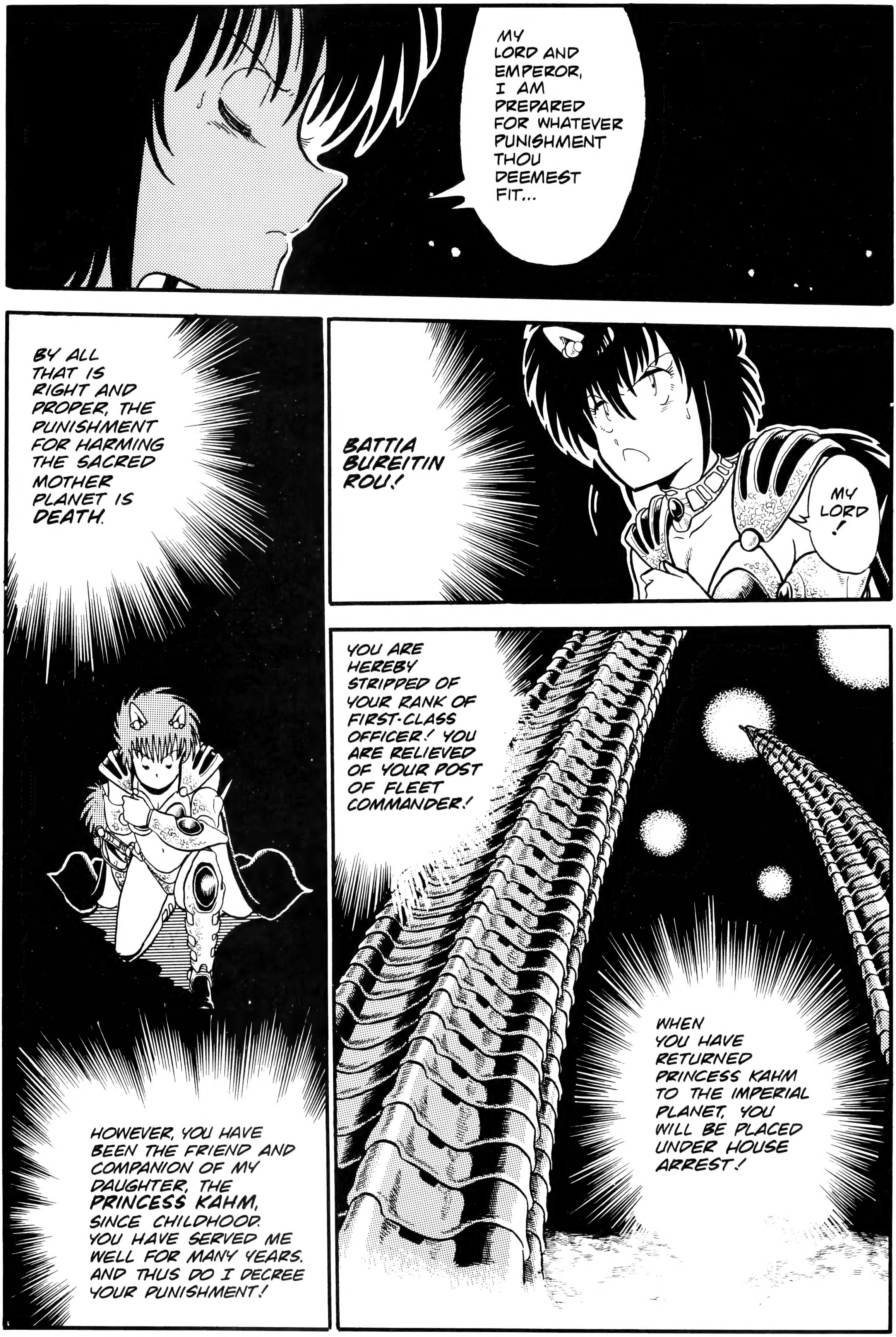
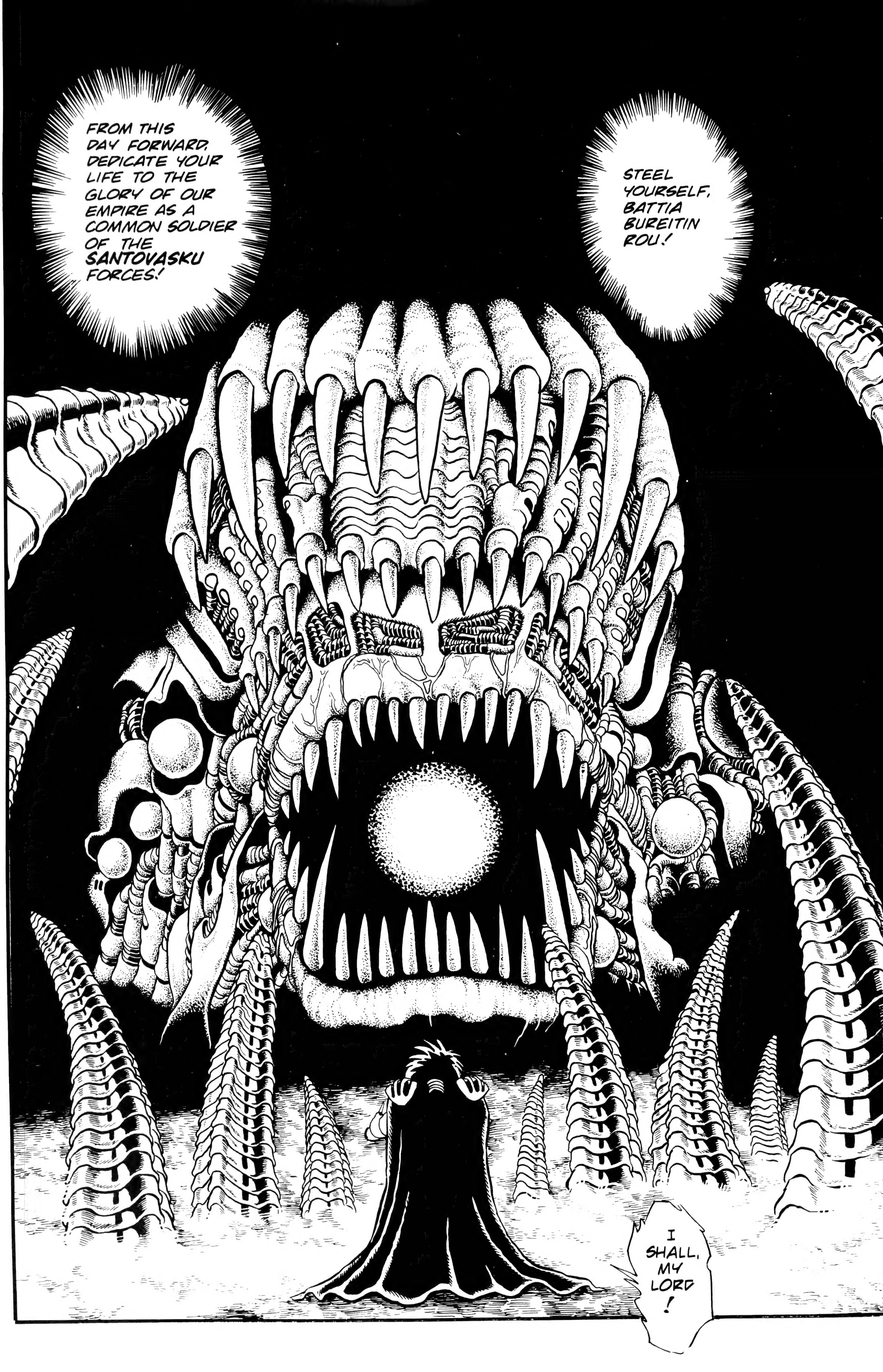
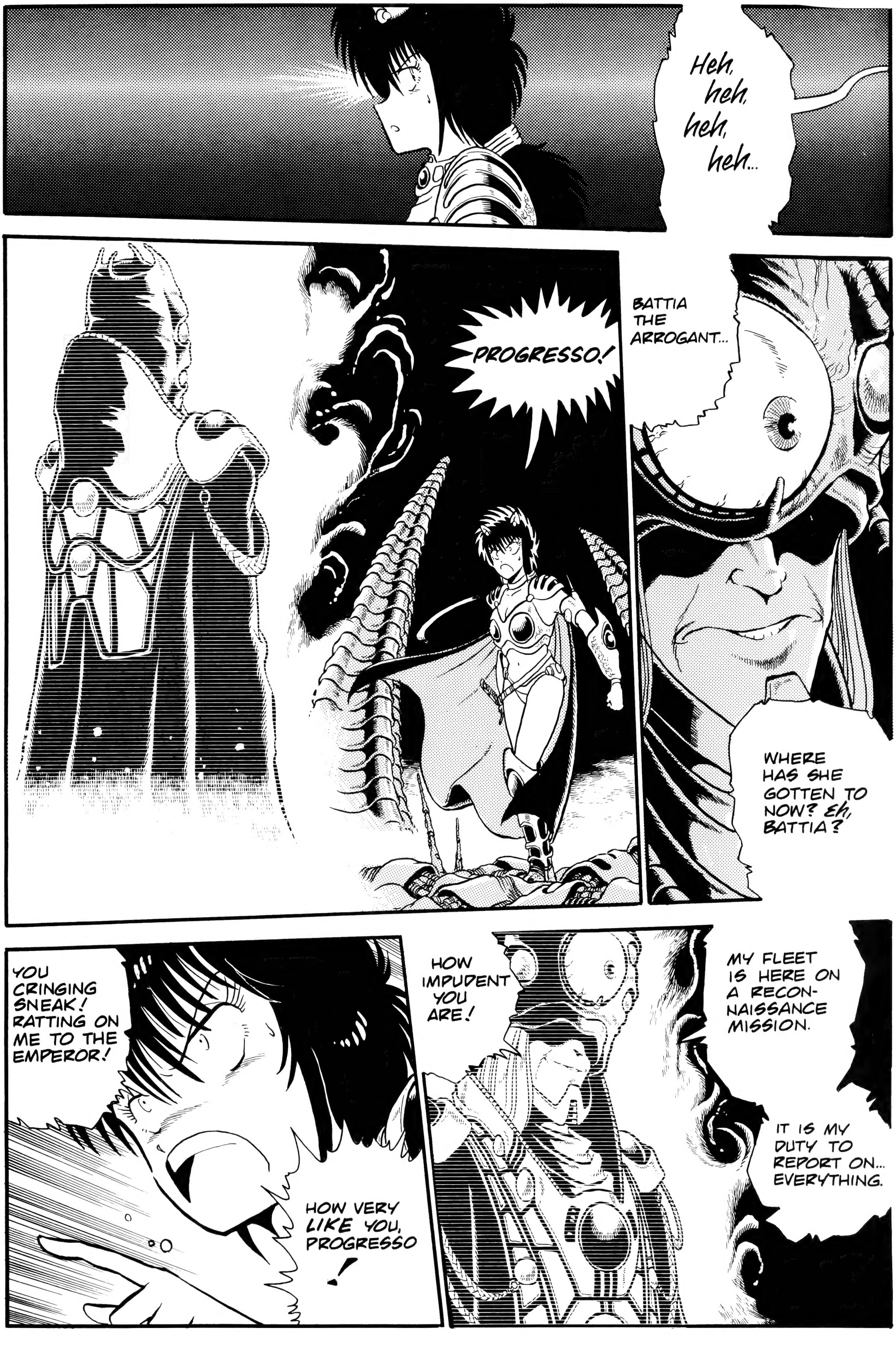
CHAPTER 5

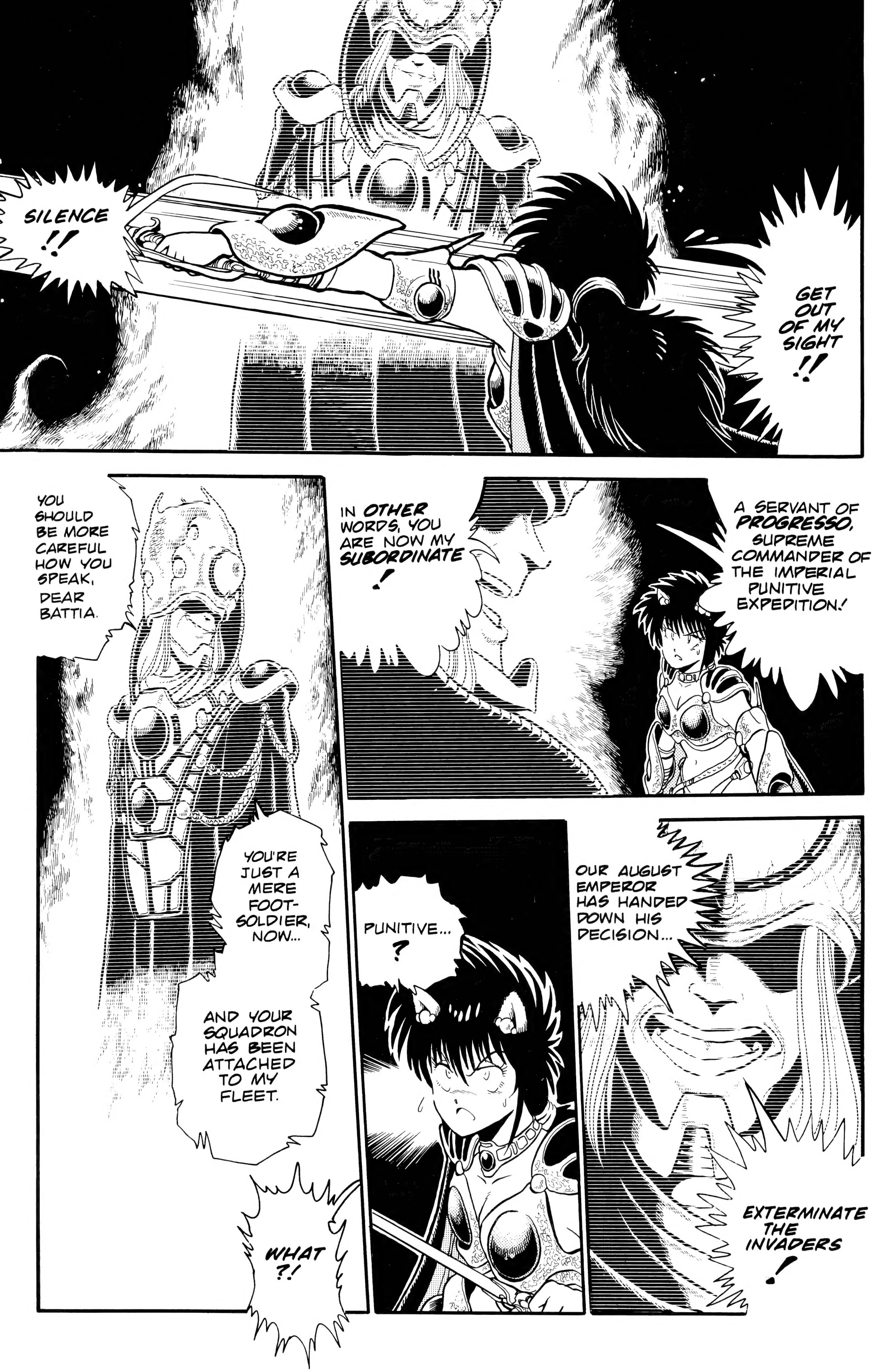

BATTIA BUREITIN ROU!
I HAVE SEEN PROGRESSO'S REPORT IN FULL!

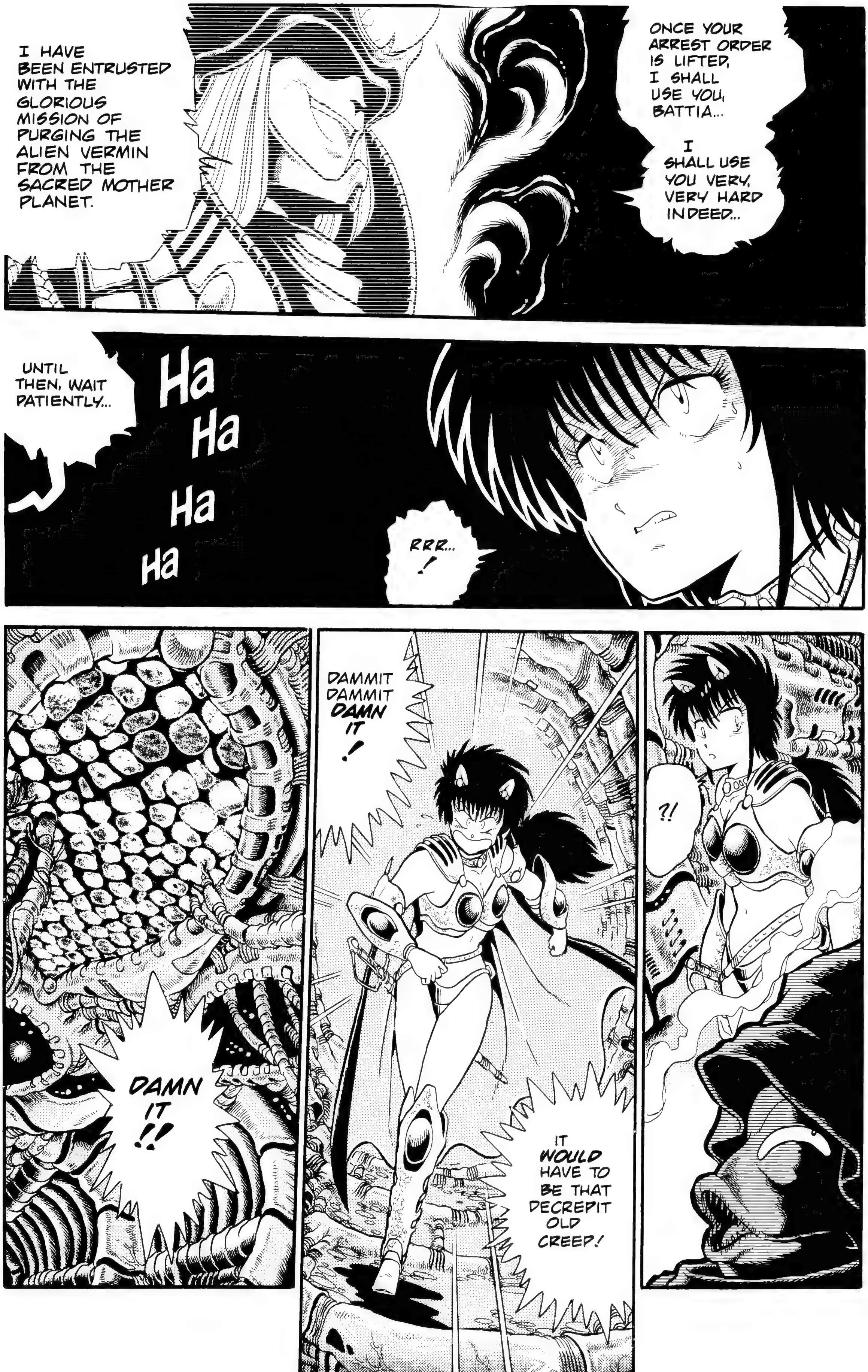

YOU HAVE INVADED THE **SACRED MOTHER PLANET** ON YOUR OWN AUTHORITY!
YOU HAVE USED YOUR MAIN GUNS TO DESTROY AN ENTIRE ISLAND! YOUR RASH ACTIONS LEAVE ME LITTLE CHOICE...

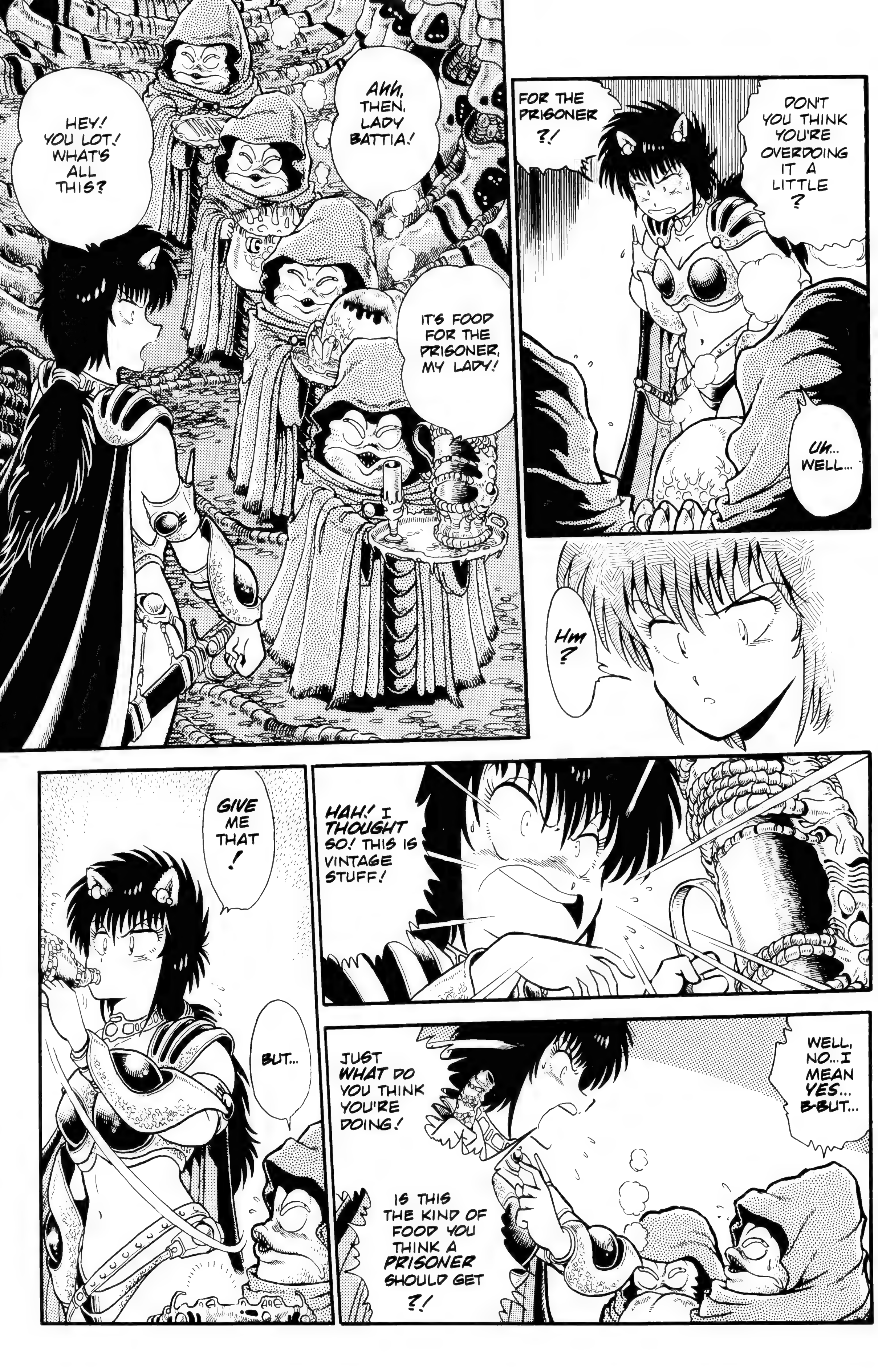

MY LORD AND EMPEROR, I AM PREPARED FOR WHATEVER PUNISHMENT THOU DEEMEST FIT...
BY ALL THAT IS RIGHT AND PROPER, THE PUNISHMENT FOR HARMING THE SACRED MOTHER PLANET IS **DEATH**.
BATTIA BUREITIN ROU!
MY LORD!
HOWEVER, YOU HAVE BEEN THE FRIEND AND COMPANION OF MY DAUGHTER, THE **PRINCESS KAHM**, SINCE CHILDHOOD. YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL FOR MANY YEARS. AND THUS DO I DECREE YOUR PUNISHMENT!
YOU ARE HEREBY STRIPPED OF YOUR RANK OF FIRST-CLASS OFFICER! YOU ARE RELIEVED OF YOUR POST OF FLEET COMMANDER!
WHEN YOU HAVE RETURNED PRINCESS KAHM TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET, YOU WILL BE PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST!

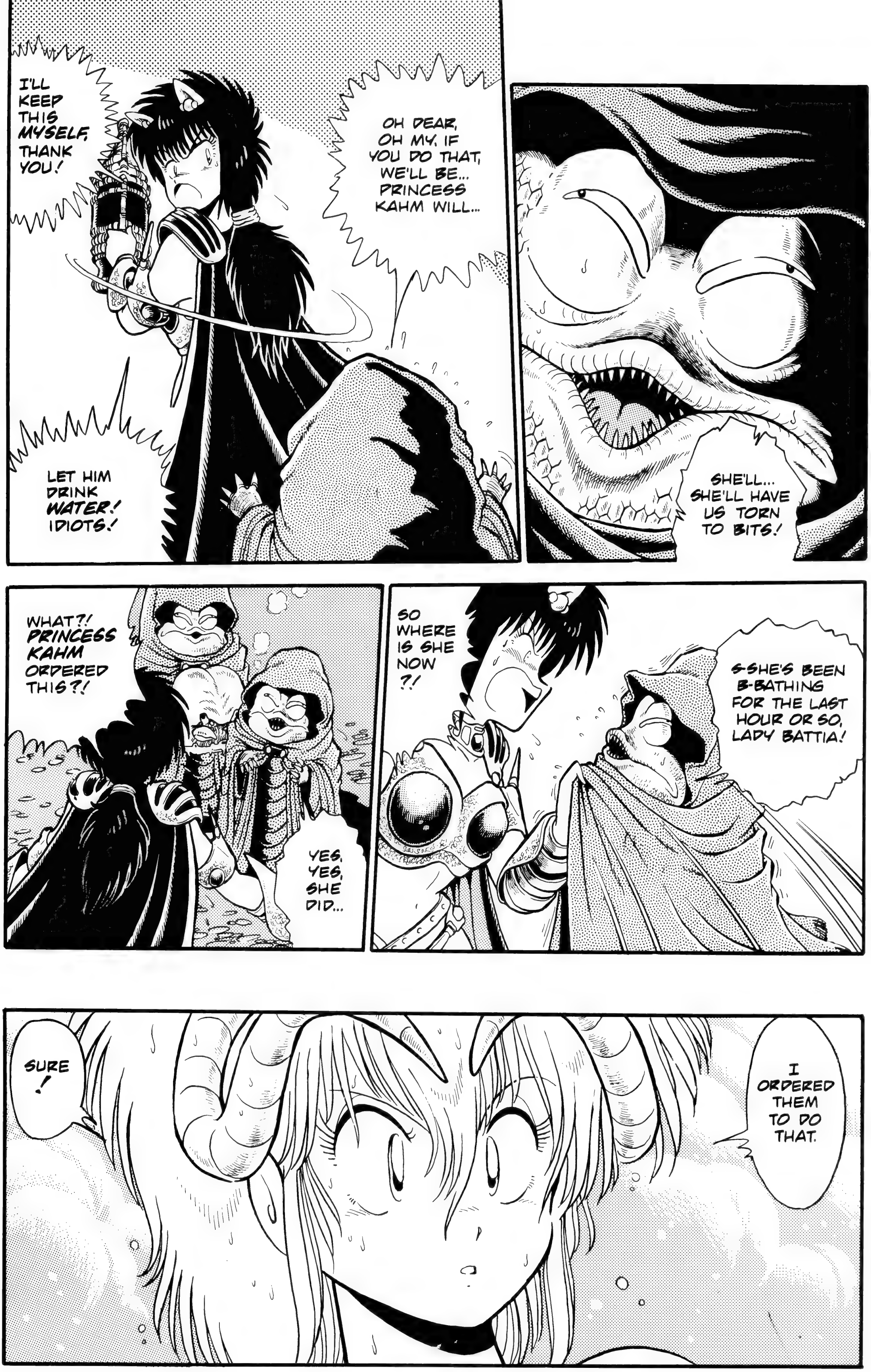

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE GLORY OF OUR EMPIRE AS A COMMON SOLDIER OF THE **SANTOVASKU** FORCES!
STEEL YOURSELF, BATTIA BUREITIN ROU!
I SHALL, MY LORD!

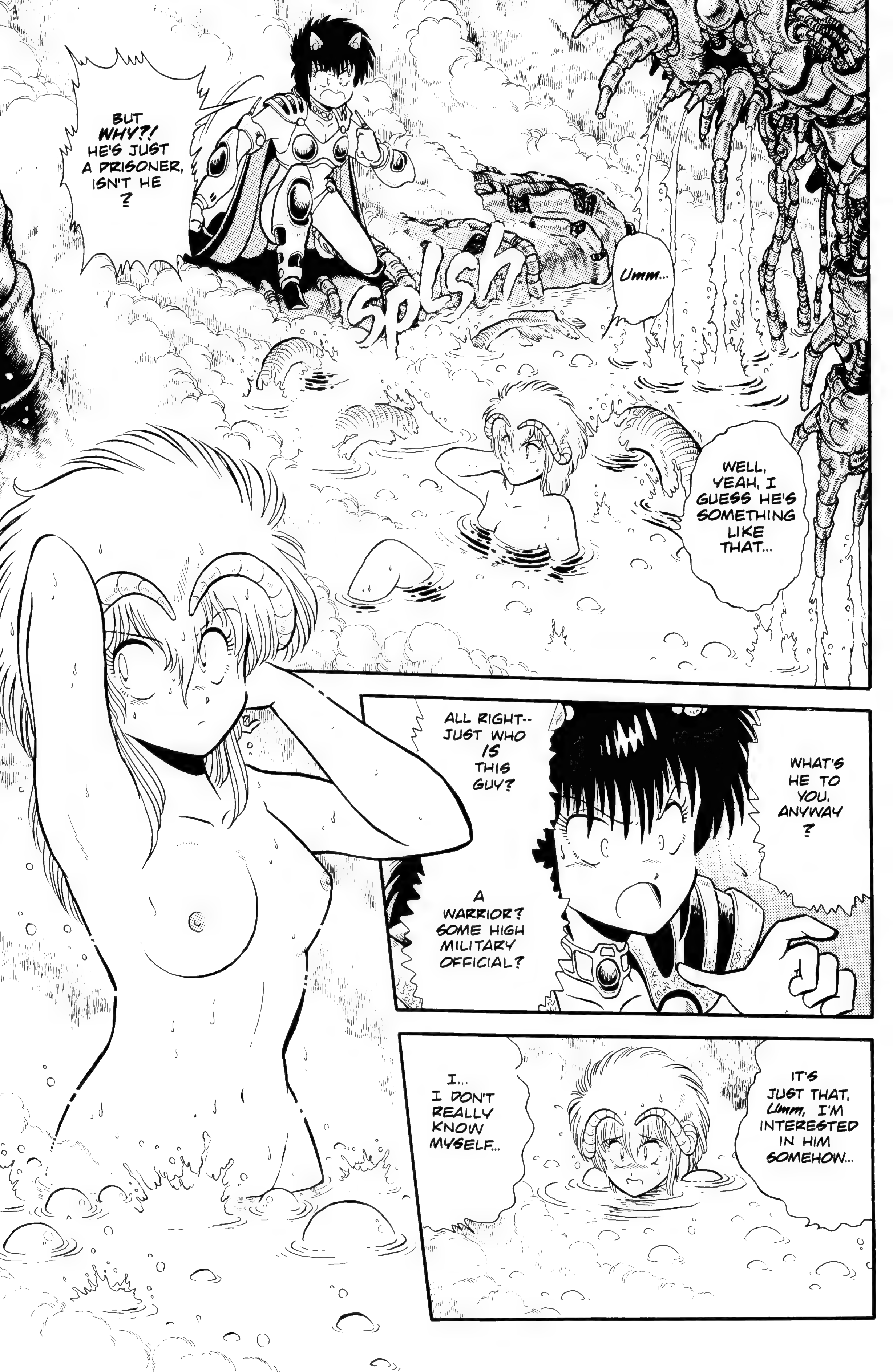

Heh, heh, heh, heh...
PROGRESSO!
BATTIA THE ARROGANT...
WHERE HAS SHE GOTTEN TO NOW? EH, BATTIA?
YOU CRINGING SNEAK! RATTING ON ME TO THE EMPEROR!
HOW VERY LIKE YOU, PROGRESSO!
HOW IMPUDENT YOU ARE!
MY FLEET IS HERE ON A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION.
IT IS MY DUTY TO REPORT ON... EVERYTHING.

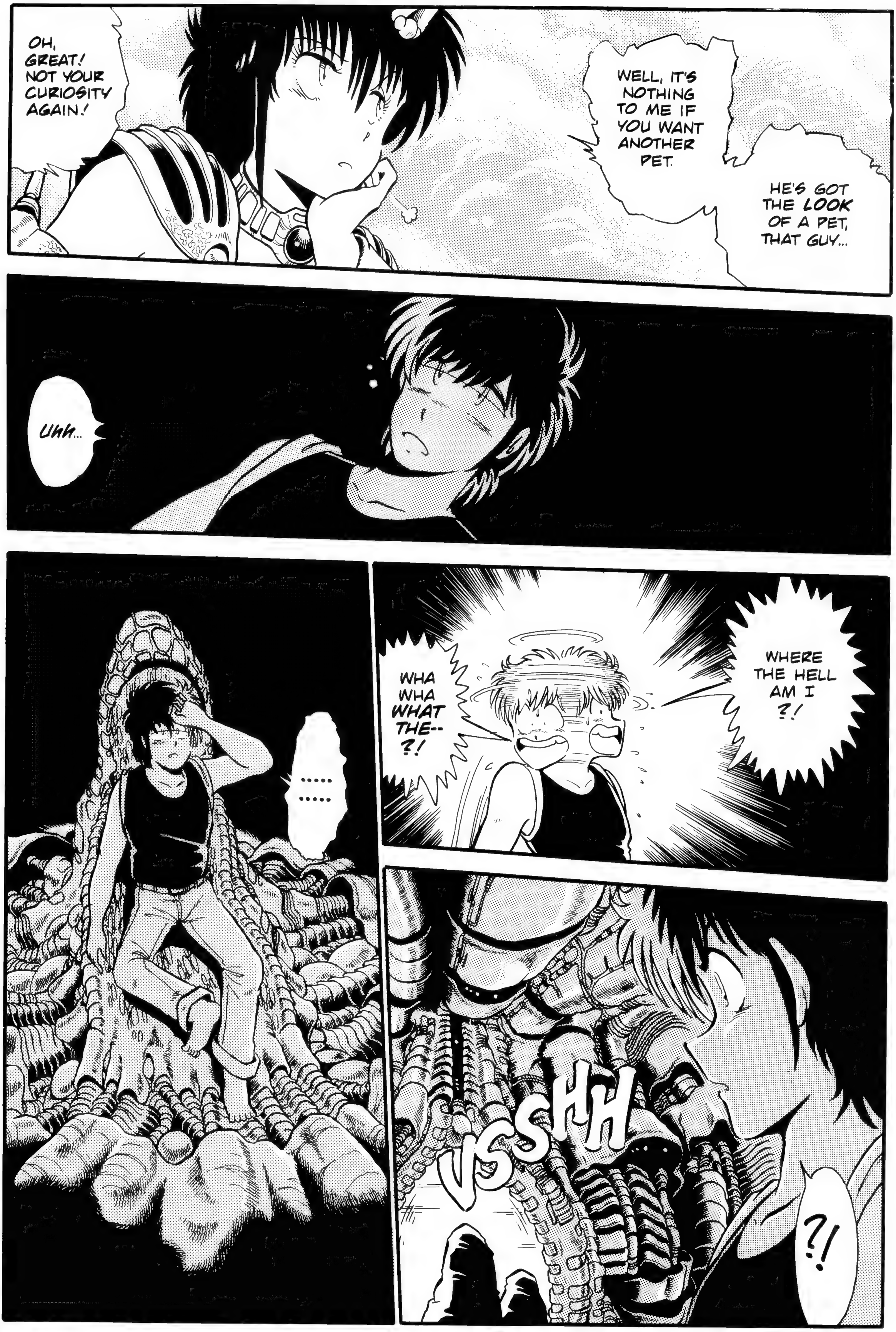

SILENCE!!
GET OUT OF MY SIGHT!!
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL HOW YOU SPEAK, DEAR BATTIA.
YOU'RE JUST A MERE FOOT-SOLDIER, NOW...
AND YOUR SQUADRON HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO MY FLEET.
WHAT?!
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE NOW MY SUBORDINATE!
A SERVANT OF PROGRESSO, SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE IMPERIAL PUNITIVE EXPEDITION!
PUNITIVE...?
OUR AUGUST EMPEROR HAS HANDED DOWN HIS DECISION...
EXTERMINATE THE INVADERS!

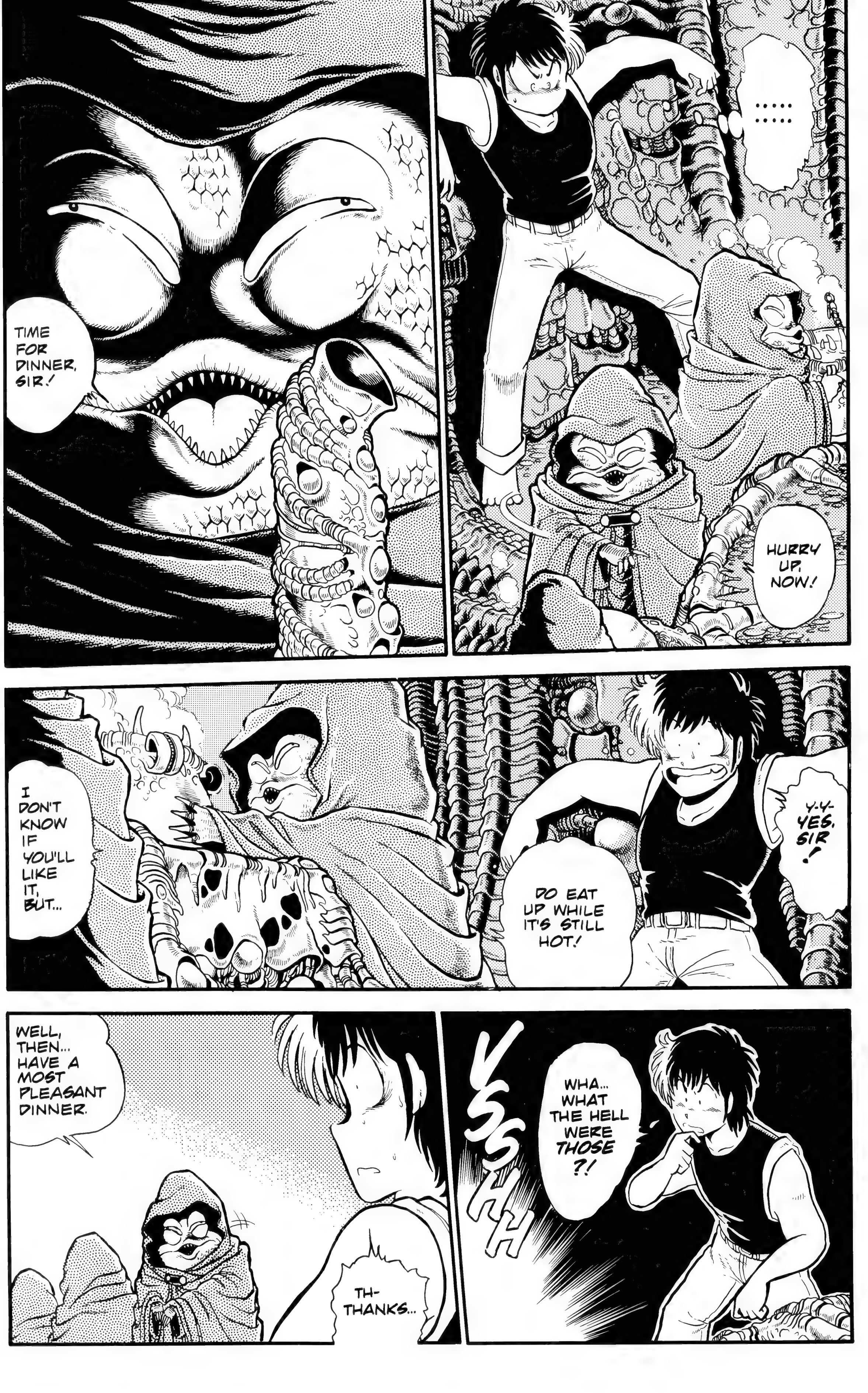

I HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE GLORIOUS MISSION OF PURGING THE ALIEN VERMIN FROM THE SACRED MOTHER PLANET.
ONCE YOUR ARREST ORDER IS LIFTED, I SHALL USE YOU, BATTIA...
I SHALL USE YOU VERY, VERY HARD INDEED...
UNTIL THEN, WAIT PATIENTLY...
Ha Ha Ha Ha
RRR...!
DAMN IT!!
DAMMIT DAMMIT DAMN IT!
IT WOULD HAVE TO BE THAT DECREPIT OLD CREEP!
?!

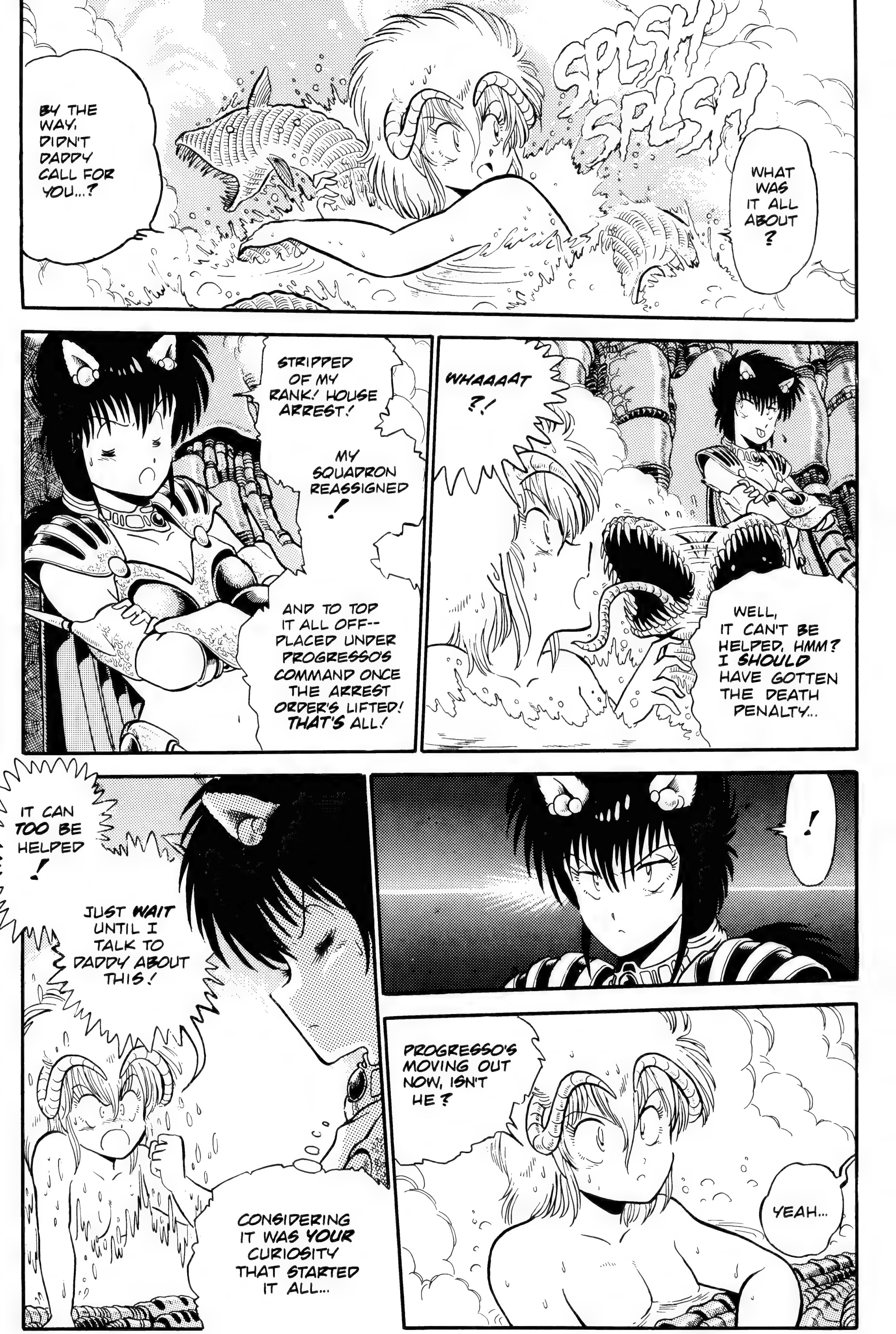

HEY! YOU LOT! WHAT'S ALL THIS?
Ahh, THEN, LADY BATTIA!
IT'S FOOD FOR THE PRISONER, MY LADY!
FOR THE PRISONER ?!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE OVERDOING IT A LITTLE ?
Uh... WELL...
Hm ?
GIVE ME THAT !
BUT...
HAH! I THOUGHT SO! THIS IS VINTAGE STUFF!
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!
IS THIS THE KIND OF FOOD YOU THINK A PRISONER SHOULD GET ?!
WELL, NO...I MEAN YES... B-BUT...

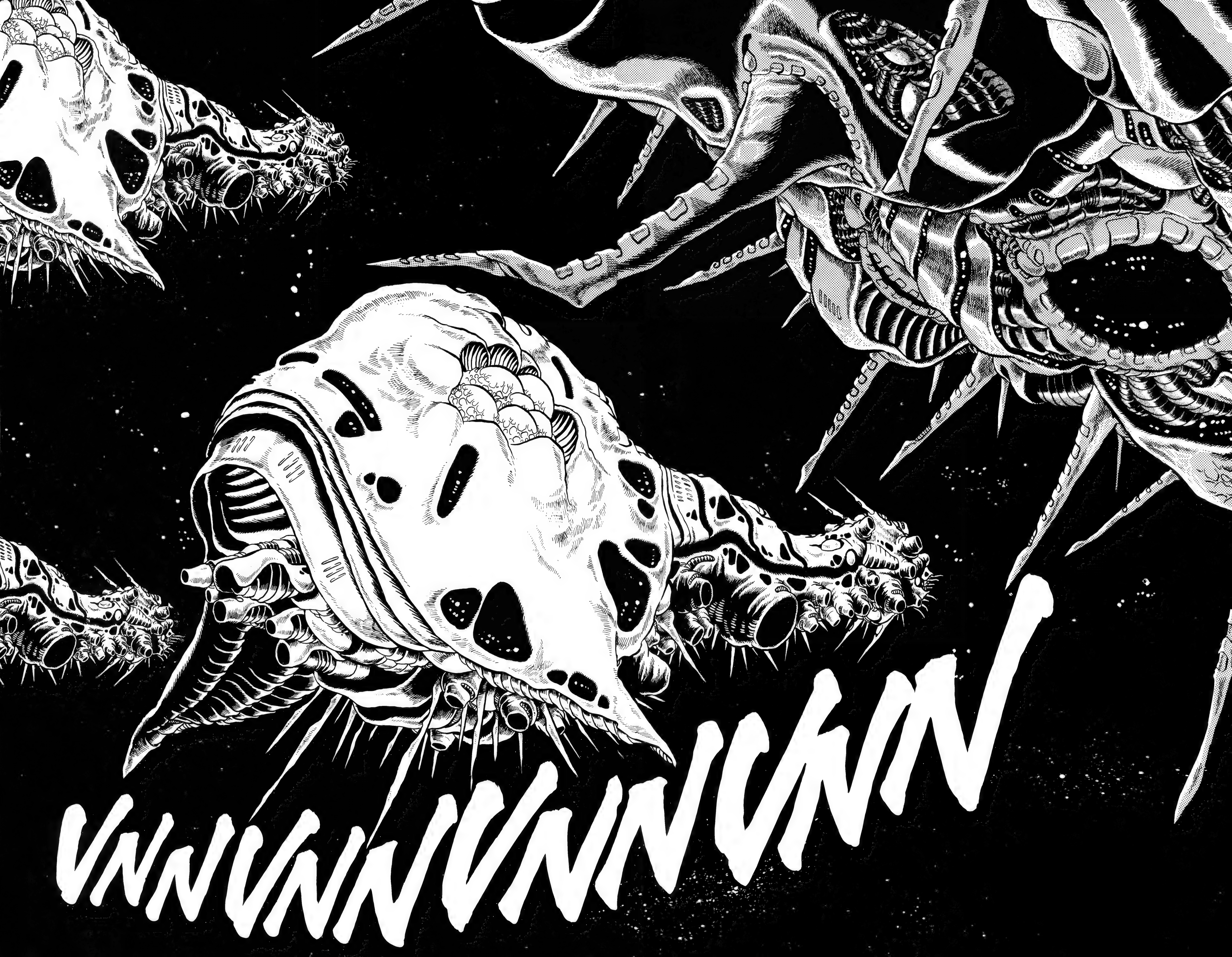

I'LL KEEP THIS MYSELF, THANK YOU!
LET HIM DRINK WATER! IDIOTS!
OH DEAR, OH MY. IF YOU DO THAT, WE'LL BE... PRINCESS KAHM WILL...
SHE'LL... SHE'LL HAVE US TORN TO BITS!
WHAT?! PRINCESS KAHM ORDERED THIS?!
YES, YES, SHE DID...
SO WHERE IS SHE NOW?!
S-SHE'S BEEN B-BATHING FOR THE LAST HOUR OR SO, LADY BATTIA!
SURE!
I ORDERED THEM TO DO THAT.

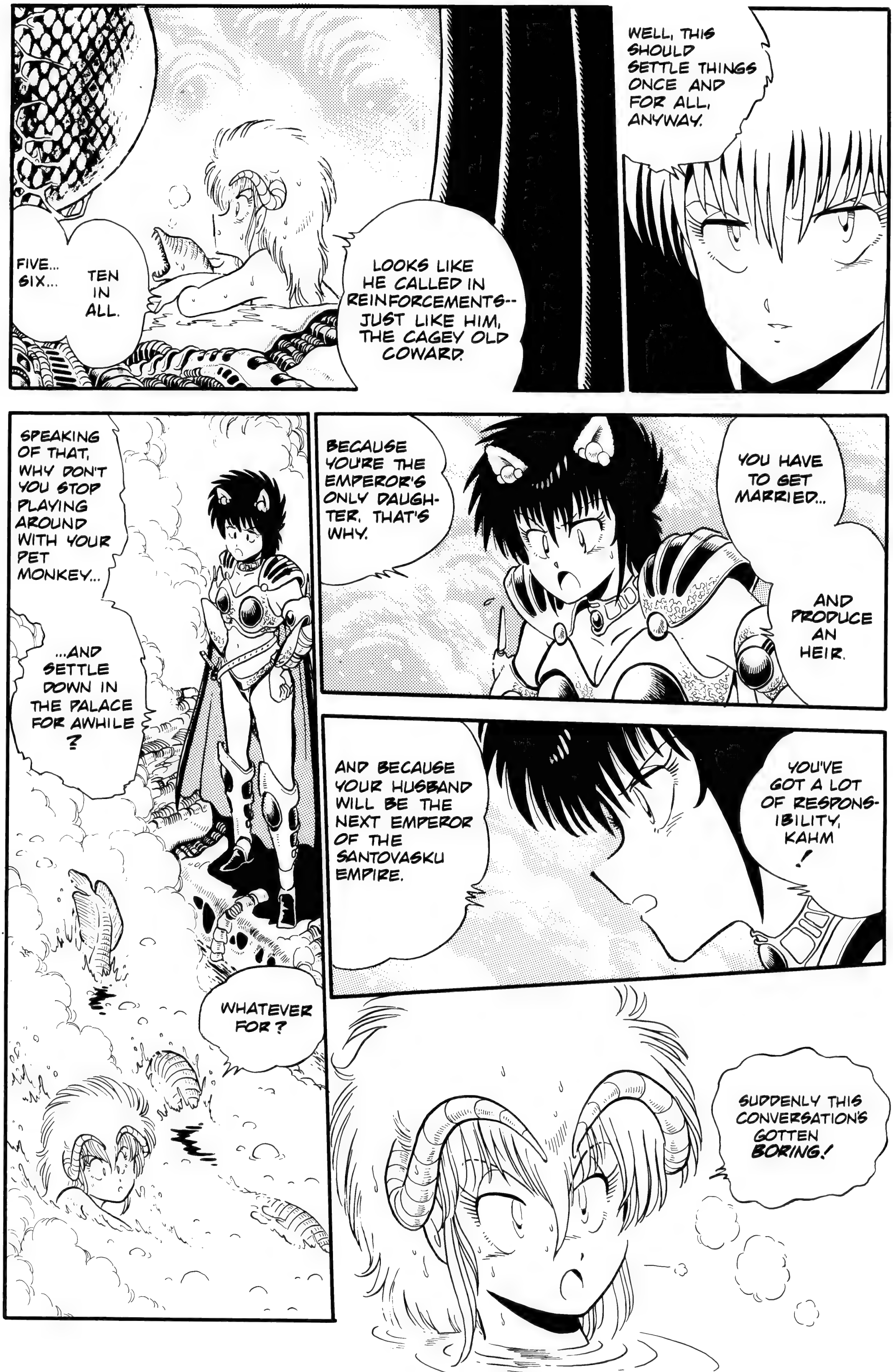

BUT WHY?! HE'S JUST A PRISONER, ISN'T HE?
Splsh
Umm...
WELL, YEAH, I GUESS HE'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
ALL RIGHT-- JUST WHO IS THIS GUY?
A WARRIOR? SOME HIGH MILITARY OFFICIAL?
WHAT'S HE TO YOU, ANYWAY?
I... I DON'T REALLY KNOW MYSELF...
IT'S JUST THAT, Umm, I'M INTERESTED IN HIM SOMEHOW...

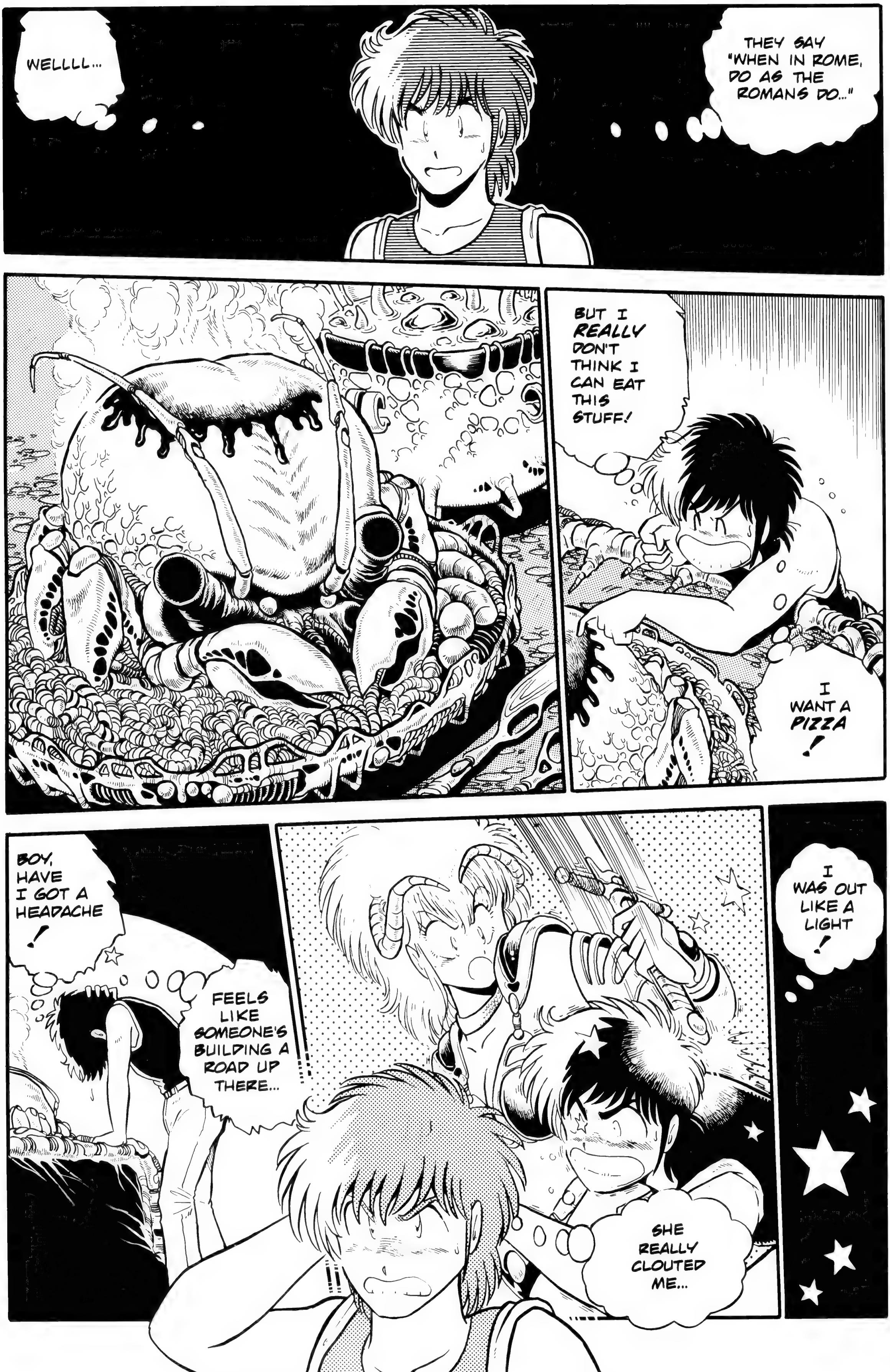

OH, GREAT! NOT YOUR CURIOSITY AGAIN!
WELL, IT'S NOTHING TO ME IF YOU WANT ANOTHER PET.
HE'S GOT THE *LOOK* OF A PET, THAT GUY...
Uhh...
......
......
WHA WHA *WHAT* THE-- ?!
WHERE THE HELL AM I ?!
VSSHH
?!

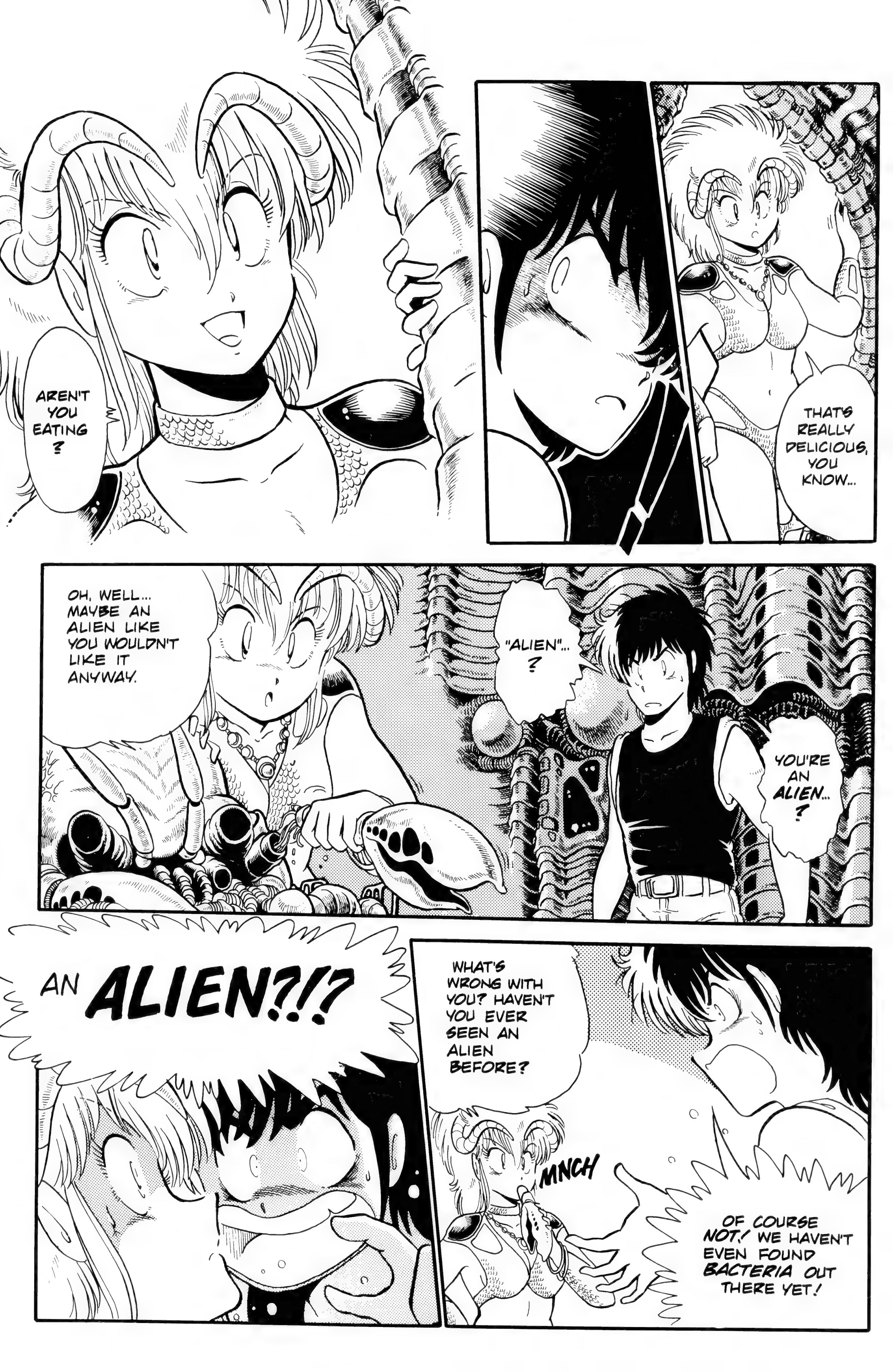

TIME FOR DINNER, SIR!
......
HURRY UP, NOW!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL LIKE IT, BUT...
DO EAT UP WHILE IT'S STILL HOT!
Y-Y-YES, SIR!
WELL, THEN... HAVE A MOST PLEASANT DINNER.
TH-THANKS...
VSSHH
WHA... WHAT THE HELL WERE *THOSE*?!

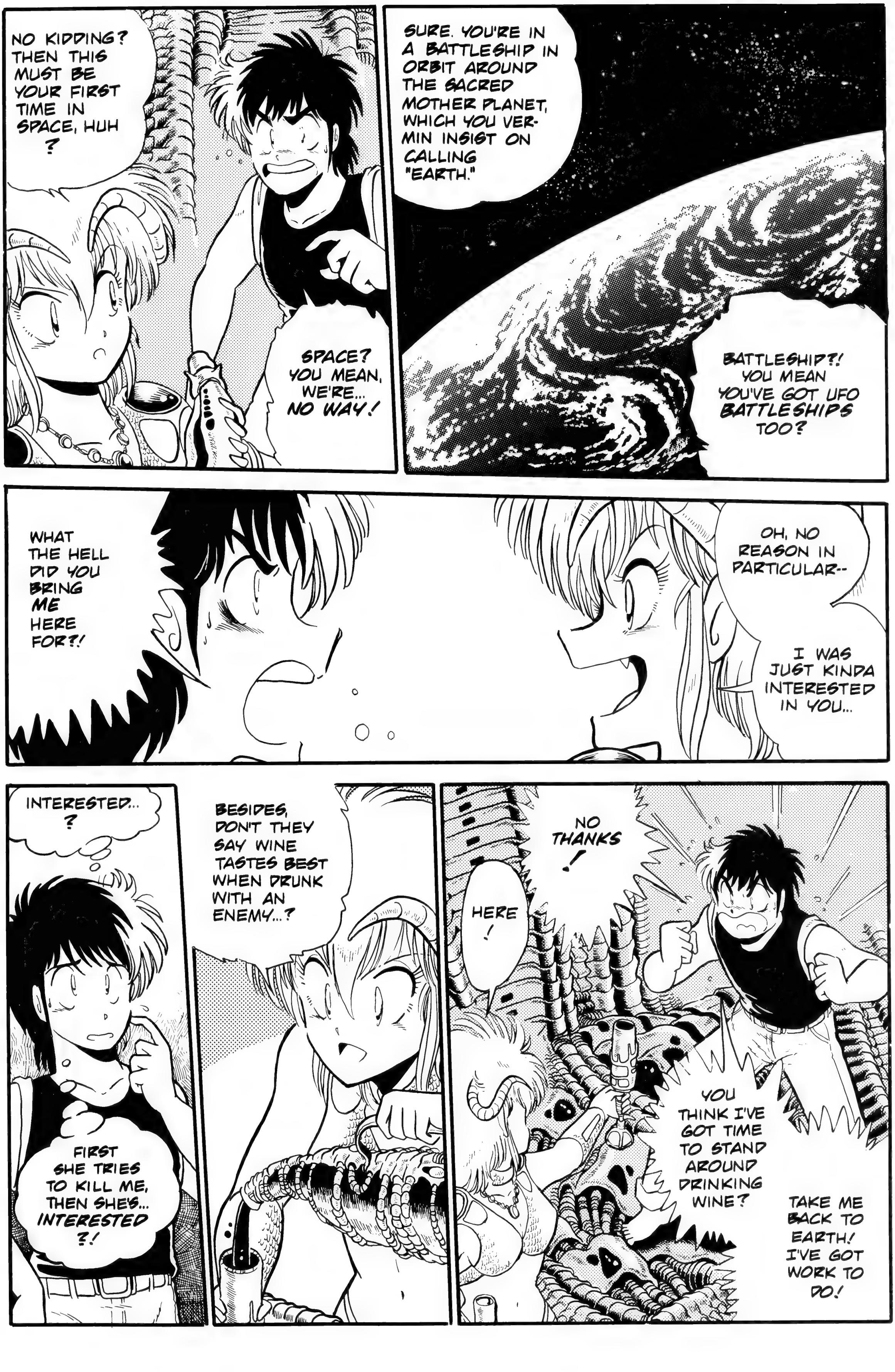

BY THE WAY, DIDN'T DADDY CALL FOR YOU...?
SPLSH SPLSH
WHAT WAS IT ALL ABOUT?
STRIPPED OF MY RANK! HOUSE ARREST!
MY SQUADRON REASSIGNED!
AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF-- PLACED UNDER PROGRESSO'S COMMAND ONCE THE ARREST ORDER'S LIFTED! THAT'S ALL!
WHAAAAT?!
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED, HMM? I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE DEATH PENALTY...
IT CAN TOO BE HELPED!
JUST WAIT UNTIL I TALK TO DADDY ABOUT THIS!
CONSIDERING IT WAS YOUR CURIOSITY THAT STARTED IT ALL...
!
PROGRESSO'S MOVING OUT NOW, ISN'T HE?
YEAH...

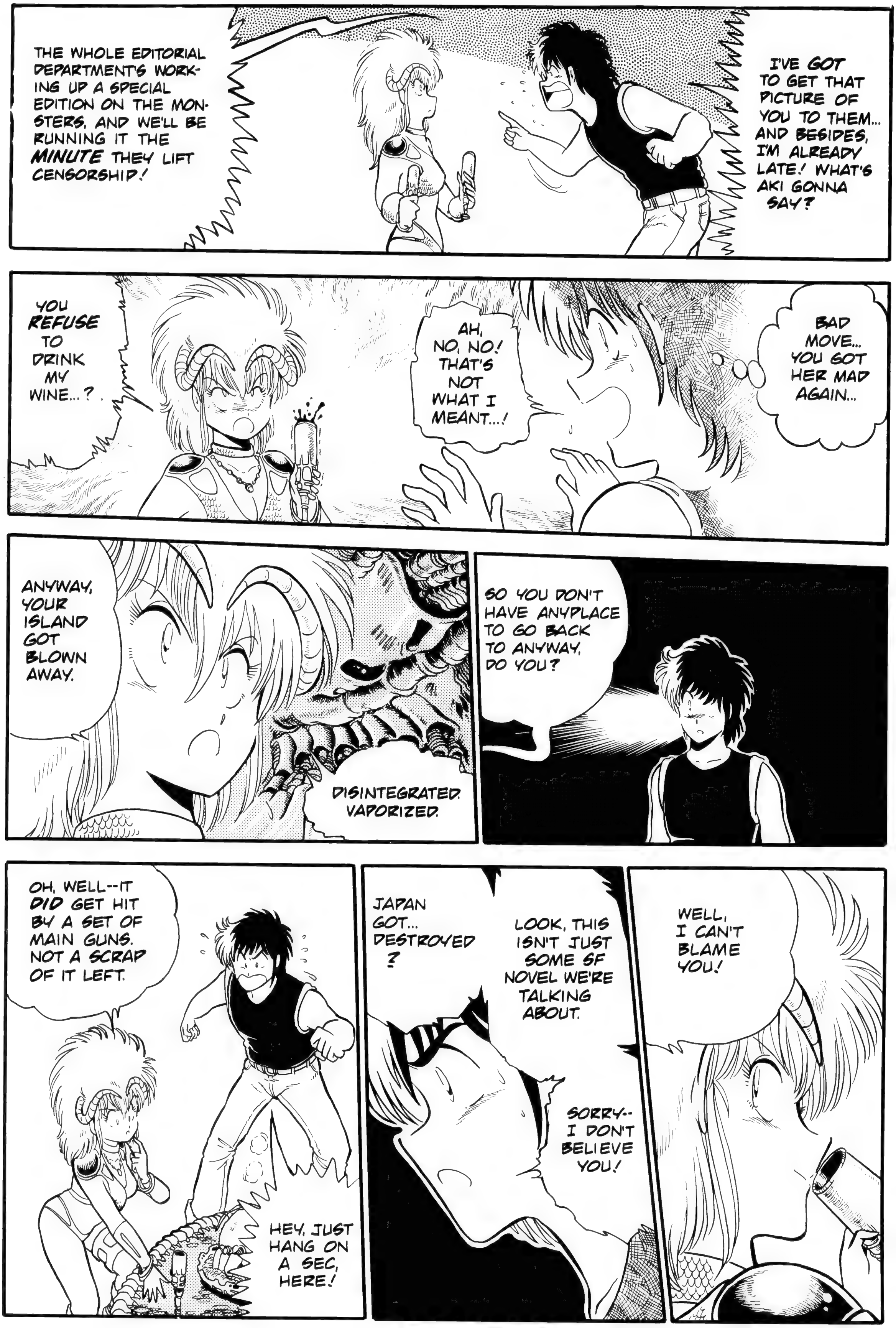

VNNVNNVNNVNN

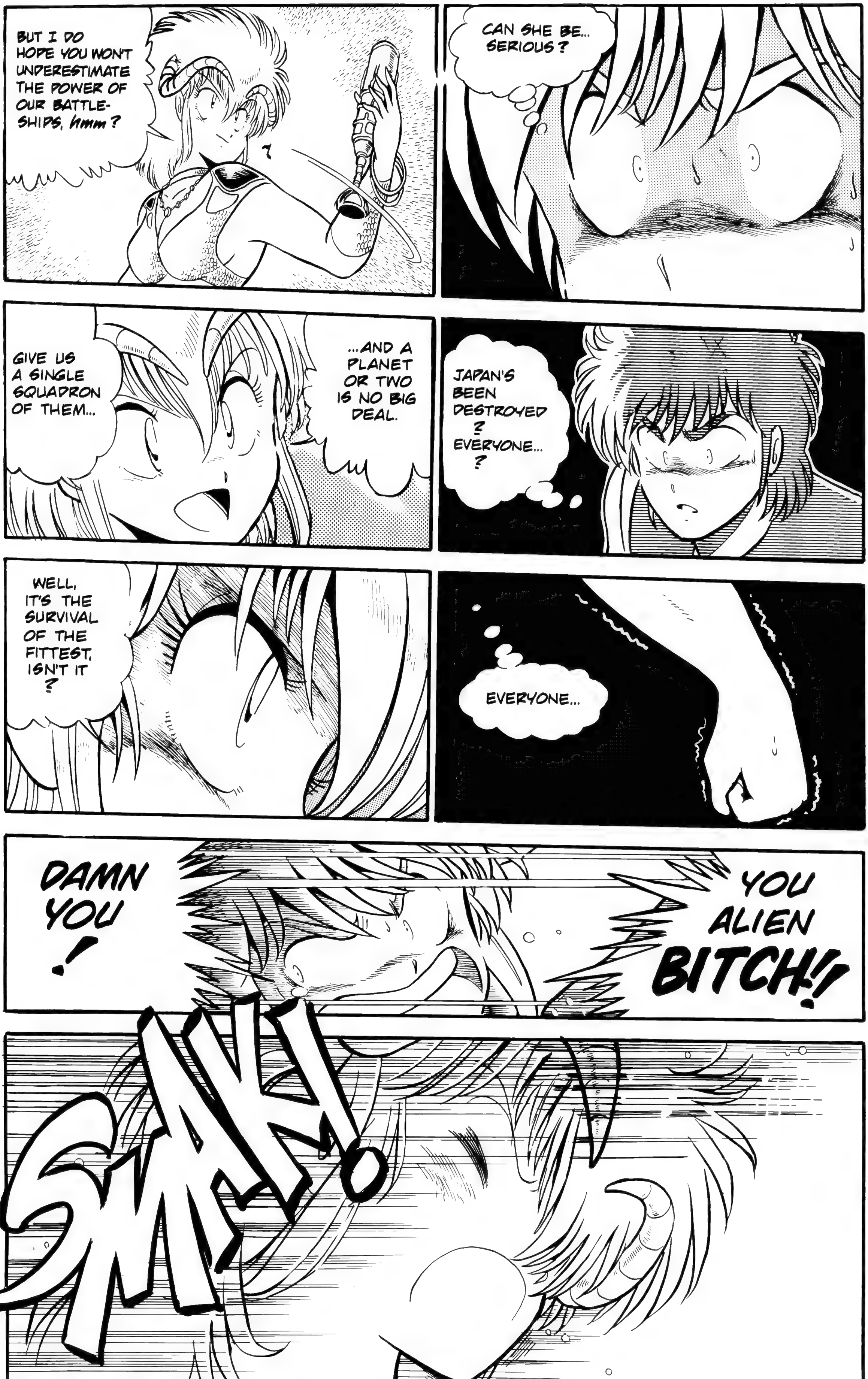

FIVE... SIX...
TEN IN ALL.
LOOKS LIKE HE CALLED IN REINFORCEMENTS-- JUST LIKE HIM, THE CAGEY OLD COWARD.
WELL, THIS SHOULD SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL, ANYWAY.
SPEAKING OF THAT, WHY DON'T YOU STOP PLAYING AROUND WITH YOUR PET MONKEY...
...AND SETTLE DOWN IN THE PALACE FOR AWHILE?
WHATEVER FOR?
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE EMPEROR'S ONLY DAUGHTER, THAT'S WHY.
YOU HAVE TO GET MARRIED...
AND PRODUCE AN HEIR.
AND BECAUSE YOUR HUSBAND WILL BE THE NEXT EMPEROR OF THE SANTOVASKU EMPIRE.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY, KAHM!
SUDDENLY THIS CONVERSATION'S GOTTEN *BORING!*

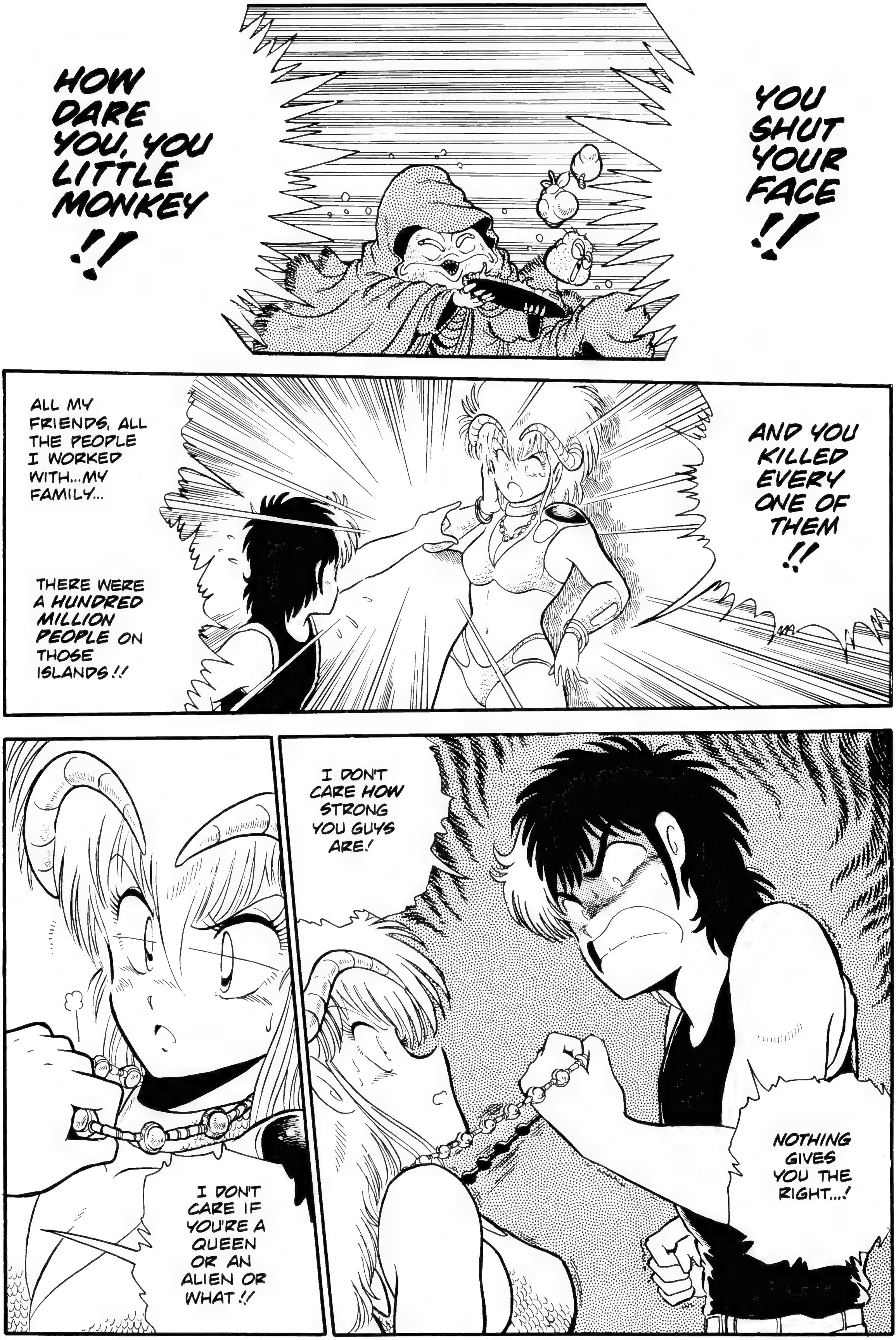

WELLLL...
THEY SAY "WHEN IN ROME, DO AS THE ROMANS DO..."
BUT I *REALLY* DON'T THINK I CAN EAT THIS STUFF!
I WANT A *PIZZA*!
BOY, HAVE I GOT A HEADACHE!
FEELS LIKE SOMEONE'S BUILDING A ROAD UP THERE...
I WAS OUT LIKE A LIGHT!
SHE REALLY CLOUTED ME...

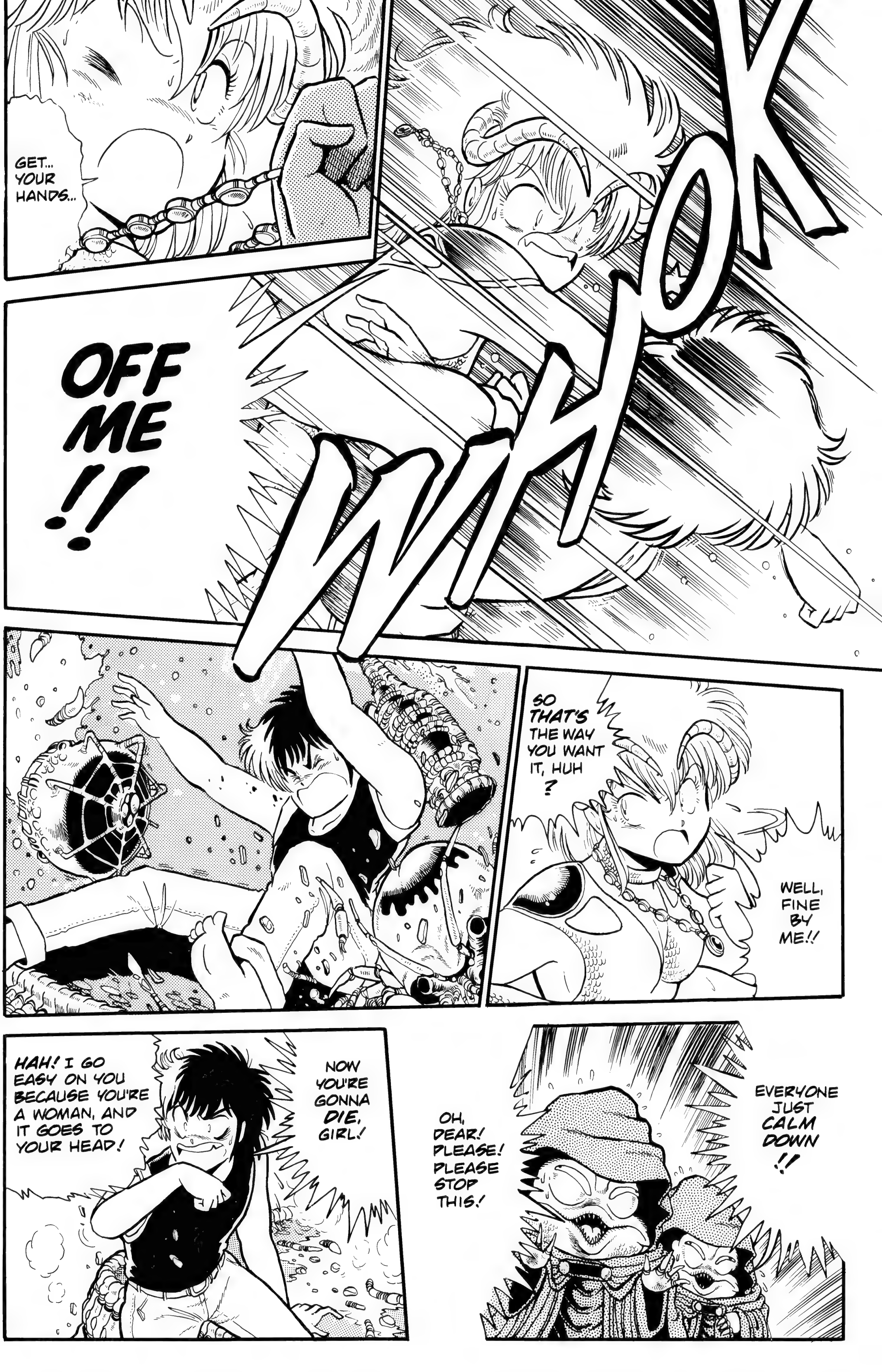

AREN'T YOU EATING?
THAT'S REALLY DELICIOUS, YOU KNOW...
OH, WELL... MAYBE AN ALIEN LIKE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE IT ANYWAY.
"ALIEN"...?
YOU'RE AN ALIEN...?
AN ALIEN?!?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? HAVEN'T YOU EVER SEEN AN ALIEN BEFORE?
MNCH
OF COURSE NOT! WE HAVEN'T EVEN FOUND BACTERIA OUT THERE YET!

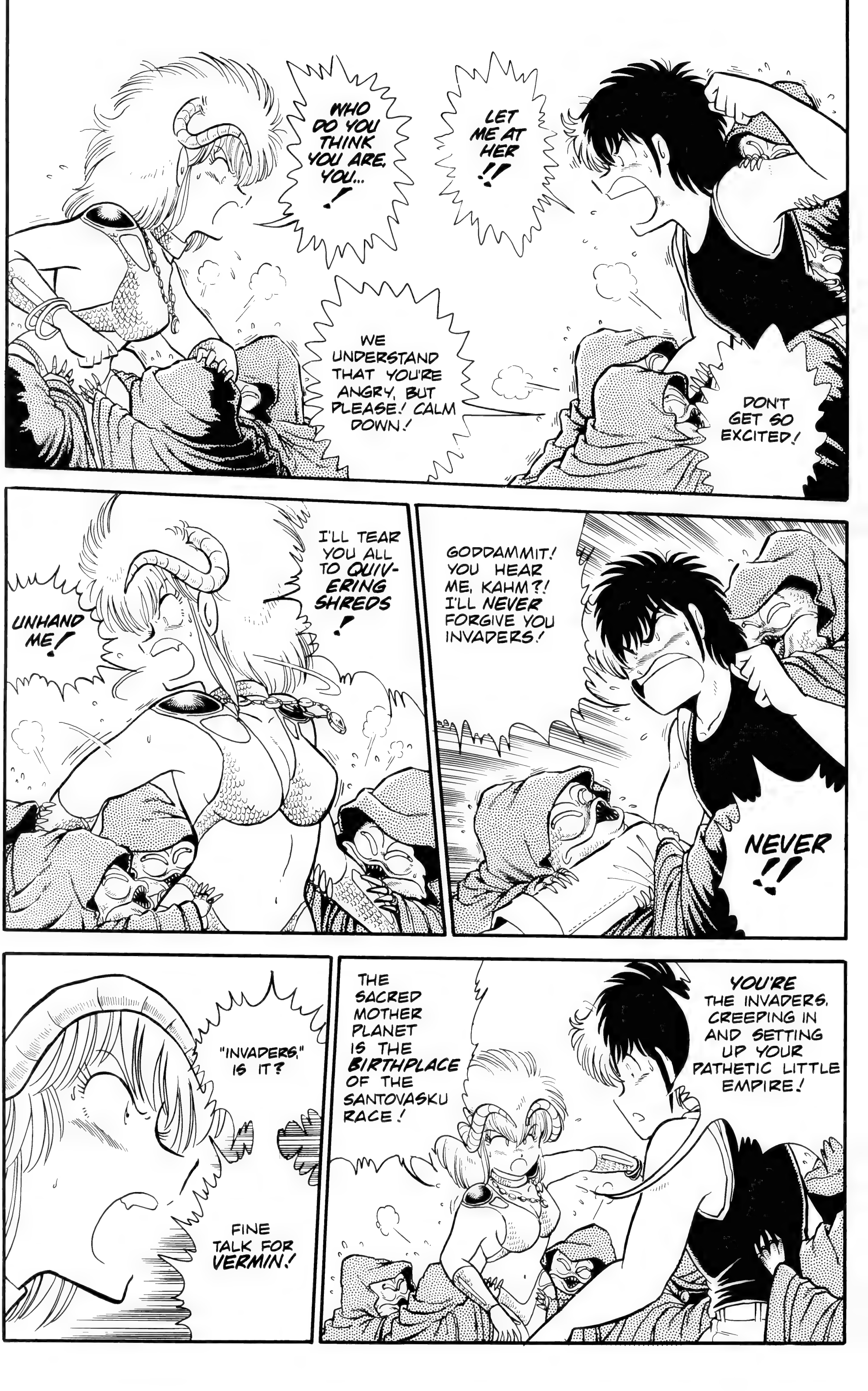

NO KIDDING? THEN THIS MUST BE YOUR FIRST TIME IN SPACE, HUH?
SPACE? YOU MEAN, WE'RE... *NO WAY!*
SURE. YOU'RE IN A BATTLESHIP IN ORBIT AROUND THE SACRED MOTHER PLANET, WHICH YOU VERMIN INSIST ON CALLING "EARTH."
BATTLESHIP?! YOU MEAN YOU'VE GOT UFO *BATTLESHIPS* TOO?
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU BRING *ME* HERE FOR?!
OH, NO REASON IN PARTICULAR--
I WAS JUST KINDA INTERESTED IN YOU...
INTERESTED...?
FIRST SHE TRIES TO KILL ME, THEN SHE'S... *INTERESTED*?!
BESIDES, DON'T THEY SAY WINE TASTES BEST WHEN DRUNK WITH AN ENEMY...?
HERE!
NO *THANKS*!
YOU THINK I'VE GOT TIME TO STAND AROUND DRINKING WINE?
TAKE ME BACK TO EARTH! I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

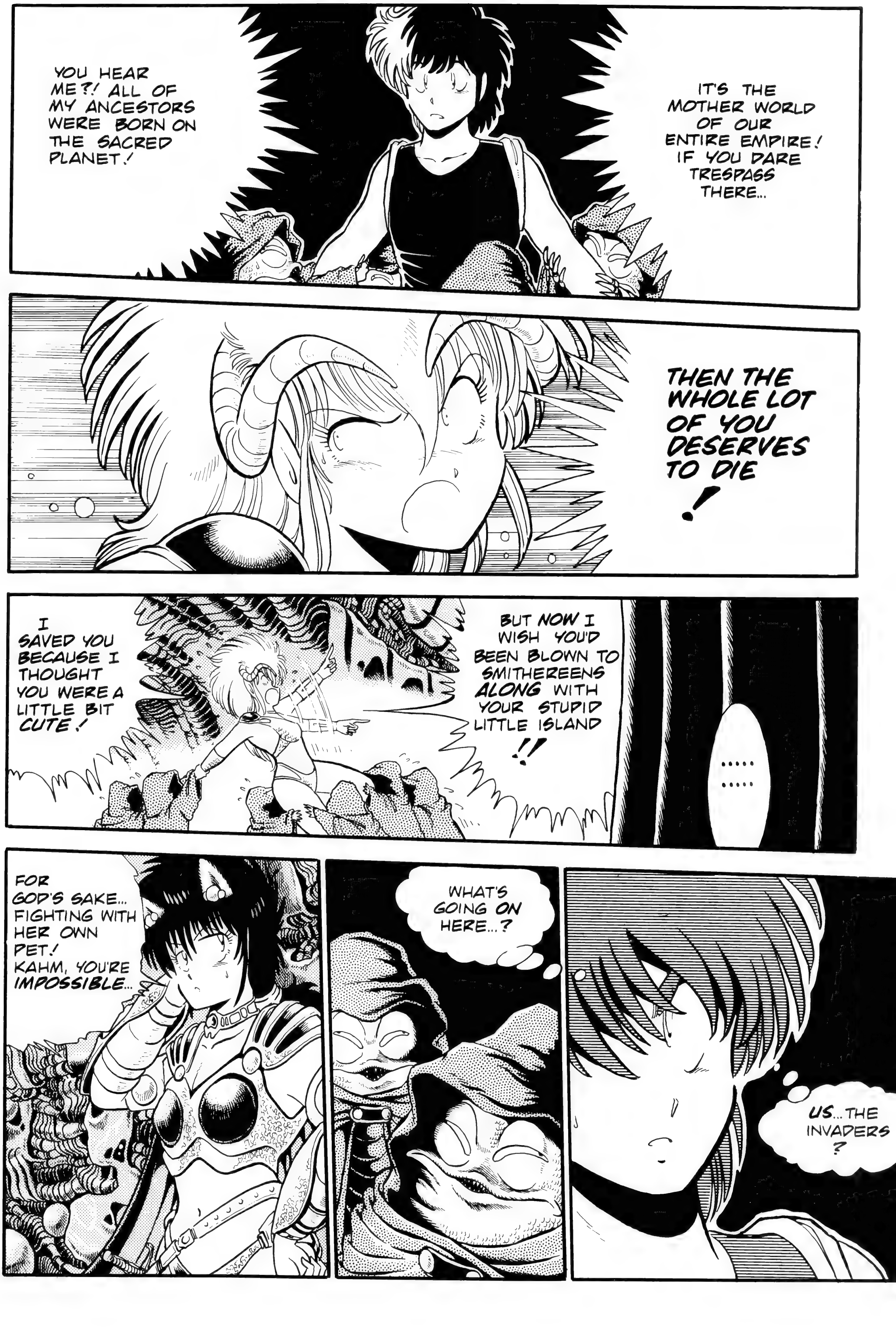

THE WHOLE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT'S WORKING UP A SPECIAL EDITION ON THE MONSTERS, AND WE'LL BE RUNNING IT THE MINUTE THEY LIFT CENSORSHIP!
I'VE GOT TO GET THAT PICTURE OF YOU TO THEM... AND BESIDES, I'M ALREADY LATE! WHAT'S AKI GONNA SAY?
YOU REFUSE TO DRINK MY WINE...?
AH, NO, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...!
BAD MOVE... YOU GOT HER MAD AGAIN...
ANYWAY, YOUR ISLAND GOT BLOWN AWAY.
DISINTEGRATED. VAPORIZED.
SO YOU DON'T HAVE ANYPLACE TO GO BACK TO ANYWAY, DO YOU?
OH, WELL--IT DID GET HIT BY A SET OF MAIN GUNS. NOT A SCRAP OF IT LEFT.
HEY, JUST HANG ON A SEC, HERE!
JAPAN GOT... DESTROYED?
LOOK, THIS ISN'T JUST SOME SF NOVEL WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
SORRY-- I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
WELL, I CAN'T BLAME YOU!

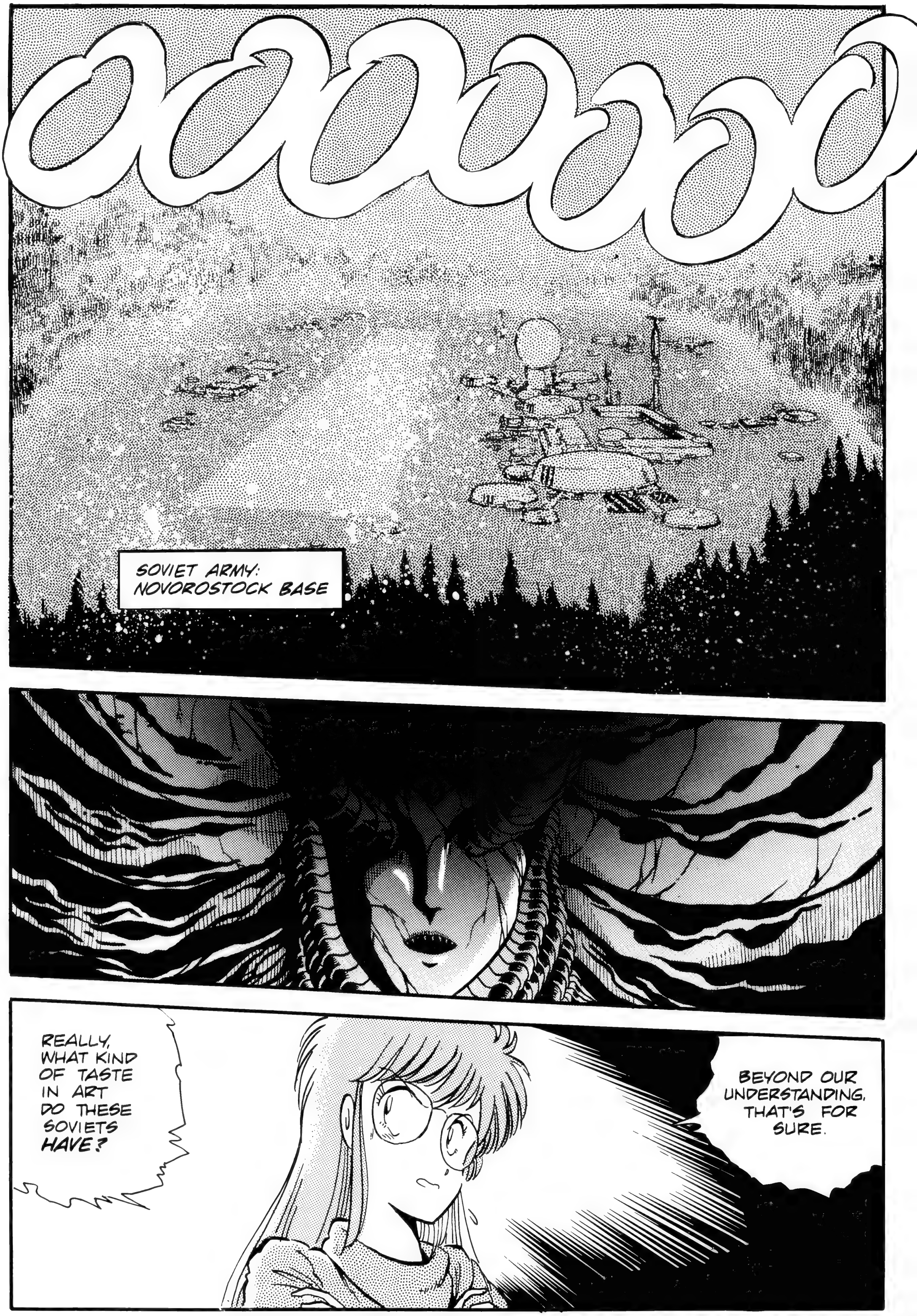

BUT I DO HOPE YOU WON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF OUR BATTLESHIPS, hmm ?
CAN SHE BE... SERIOUS ?
GIVE US A SINGLE SQUADRON OF THEM...
...AND A PLANET OR TWO IS NO BIG DEAL.
JAPAN'S BEEN DESTROYED ? EVERYONE... ?
WELL, IT'S THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST, ISN'T IT ?
EVERYONE...
DAMN YOU !
YOU ALIEN BITCH!!
SMAK!

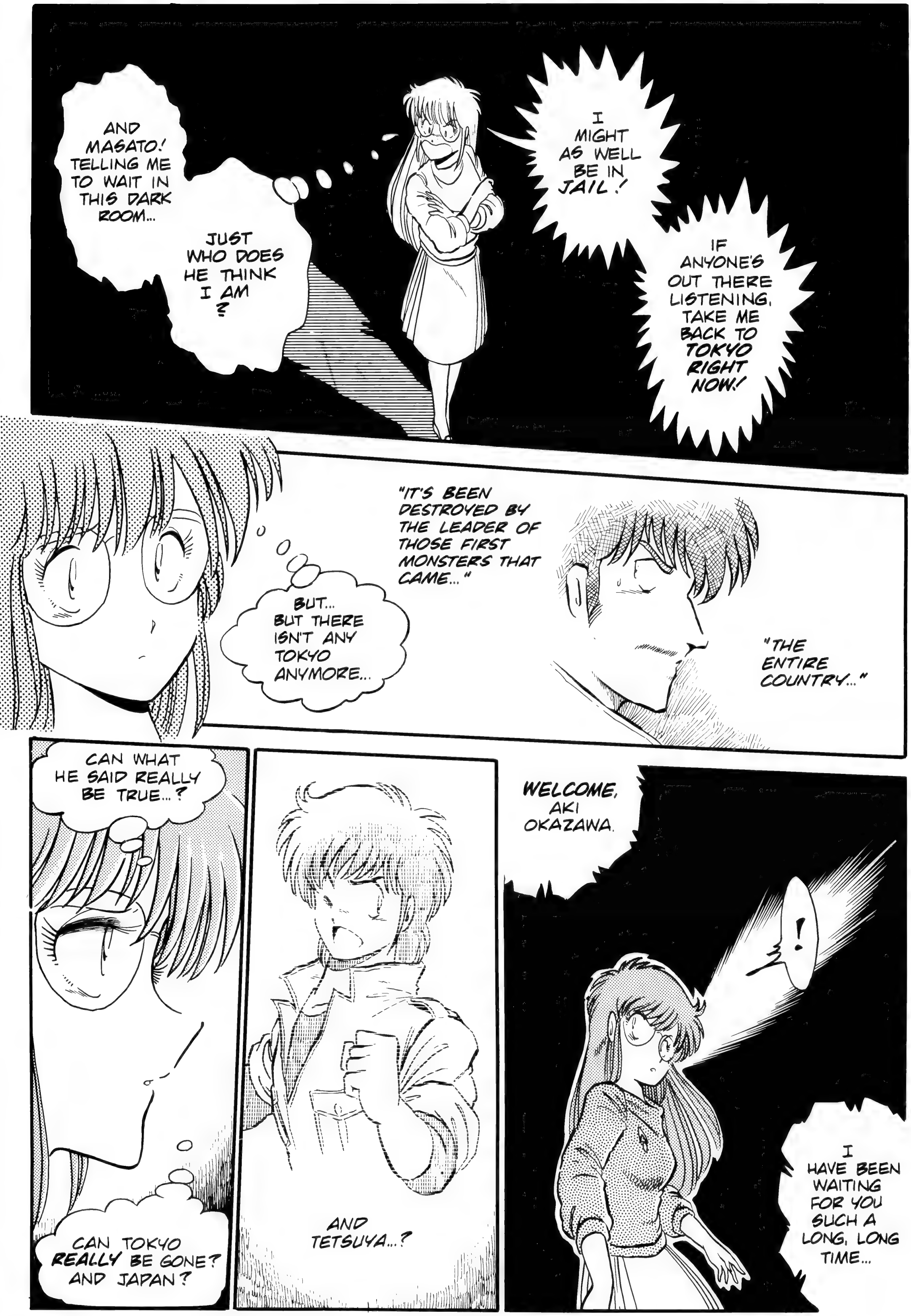

HOW DARE YOU, YOU LITTLE MONKEY!!
YOU SHUT YOUR FACE!!
ALL MY FRIENDS, ALL THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH...MY FAMILY...
THERE WERE A HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE ON THOSE ISLANDS!!
AND YOU KILLED EVERY ONE OF THEM!!
I DON'T CARE HOW STRONG YOU GUYS ARE!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A QUEEN OR AN ALIEN OR WHAT!!
NOTHING GIVES YOU THE RIGHT...!

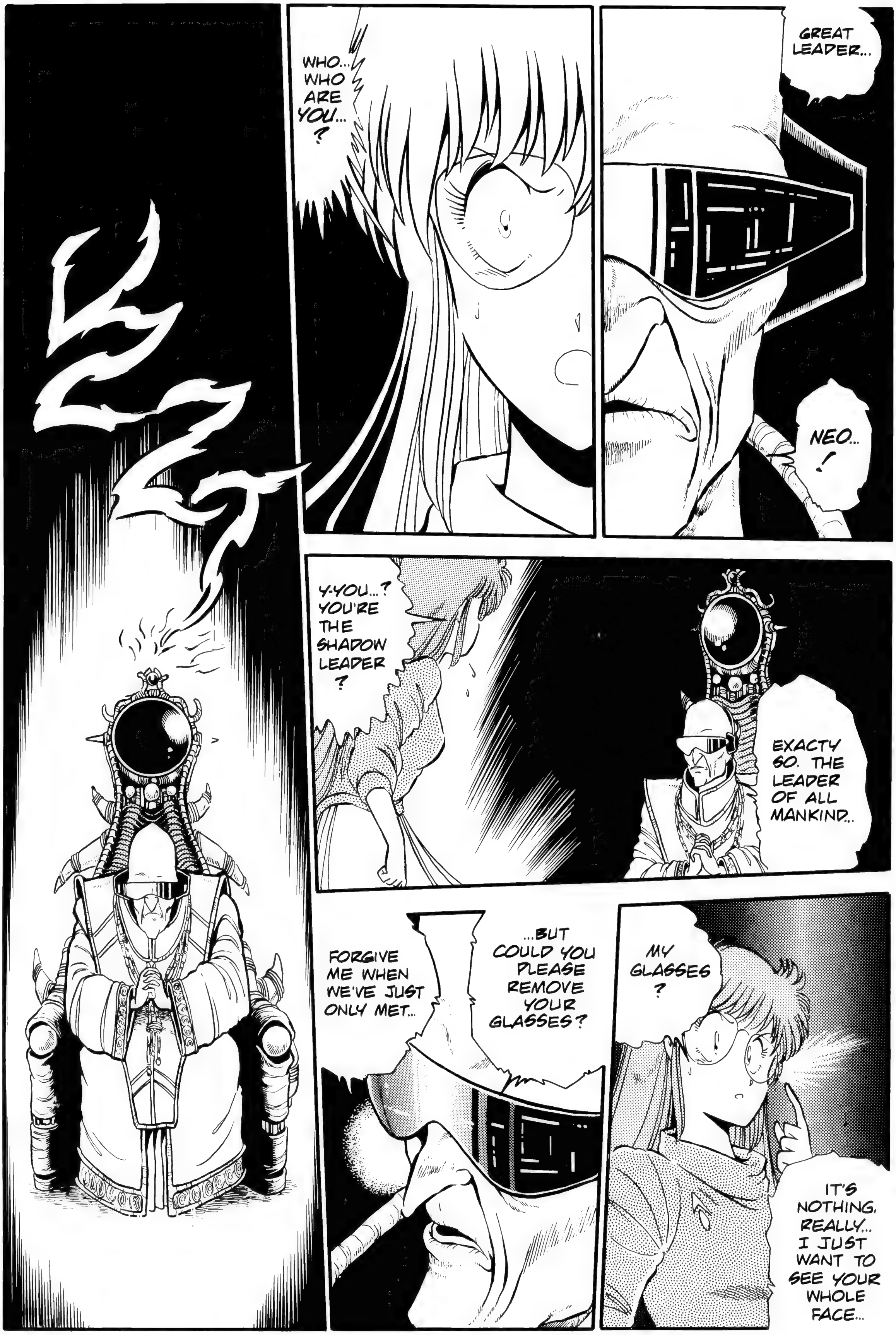

GET... YOUR HANDS...
OFF ME!!
WHOK
SO *THAT'S* THE WAY YOU WANT IT, HUH?
WELL, FINE BY ME!!
HAH! I GO EASY ON YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN, AND IT GOES TO YOUR HEAD!
NOW YOU'RE GONNA *DIE*, GIRL!
OH, DEAR! PLEASE! PLEASE STOP THIS!
EVERYONE JUST *CALM DOWN*!!

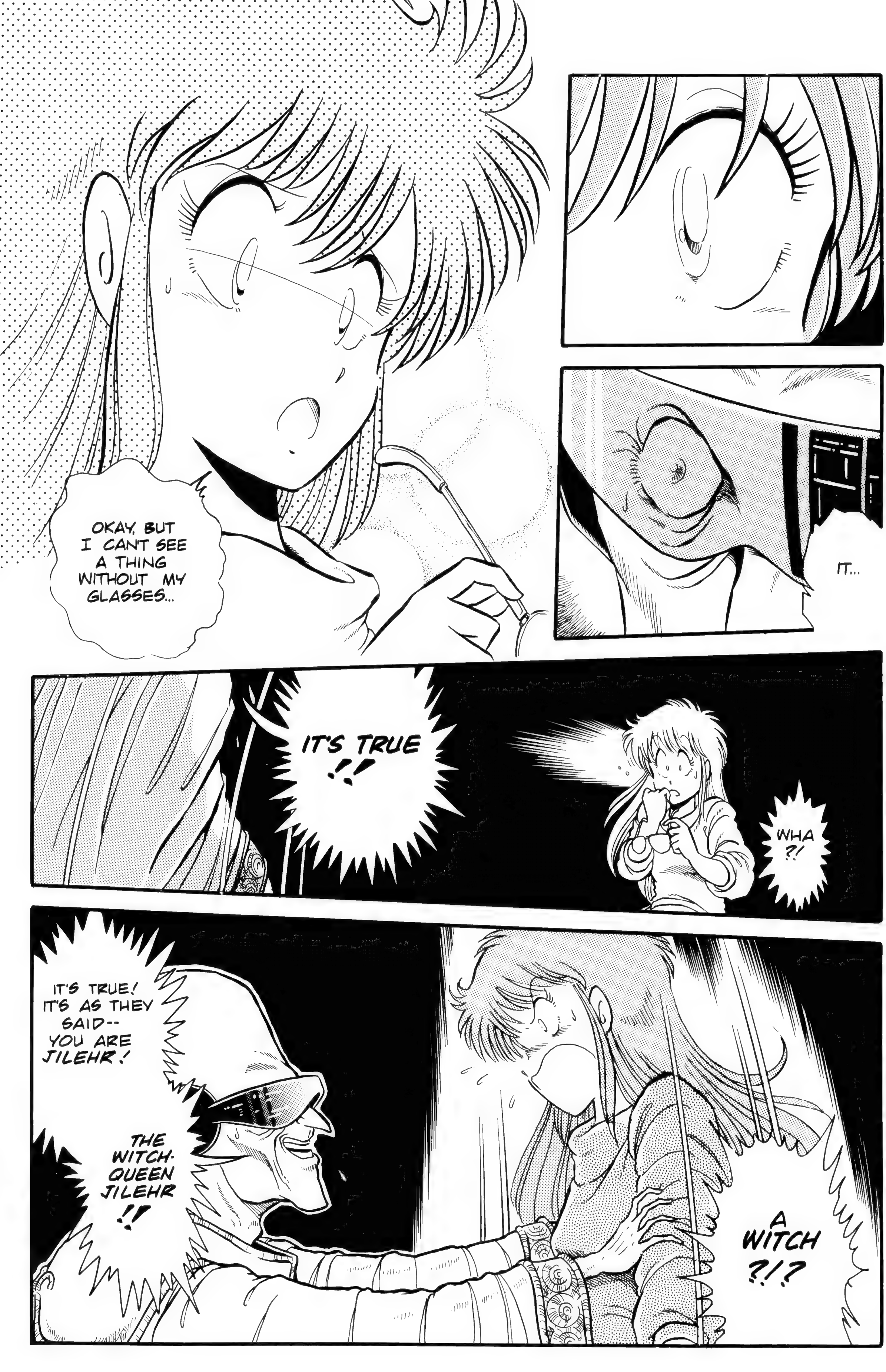

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, YOU...!
LET ME AT HER!!
WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE ANGRY, BUT PLEASE! CALM DOWN!
DON'T GET SO EXCITED!
UNHAND ME!
I'LL TEAR YOU ALL TO *QUIVERING SHREDS*!
GODDAMMIT! YOU HEAR ME, KAHM?! I'LL *NEVER* FORGIVE YOU INVADERS!
NEVER!!
"INVADERS," IS IT?
FINE TALK FOR *VERMIN*!
THE SACRED MOTHER PLANET IS THE *BIRTHPLACE* OF THE SANTOVASKU RACE!
YOU'RE THE INVADERS, CREEPING IN AND SETTING UP YOUR PATHETIC LITTLE EMPIRE!

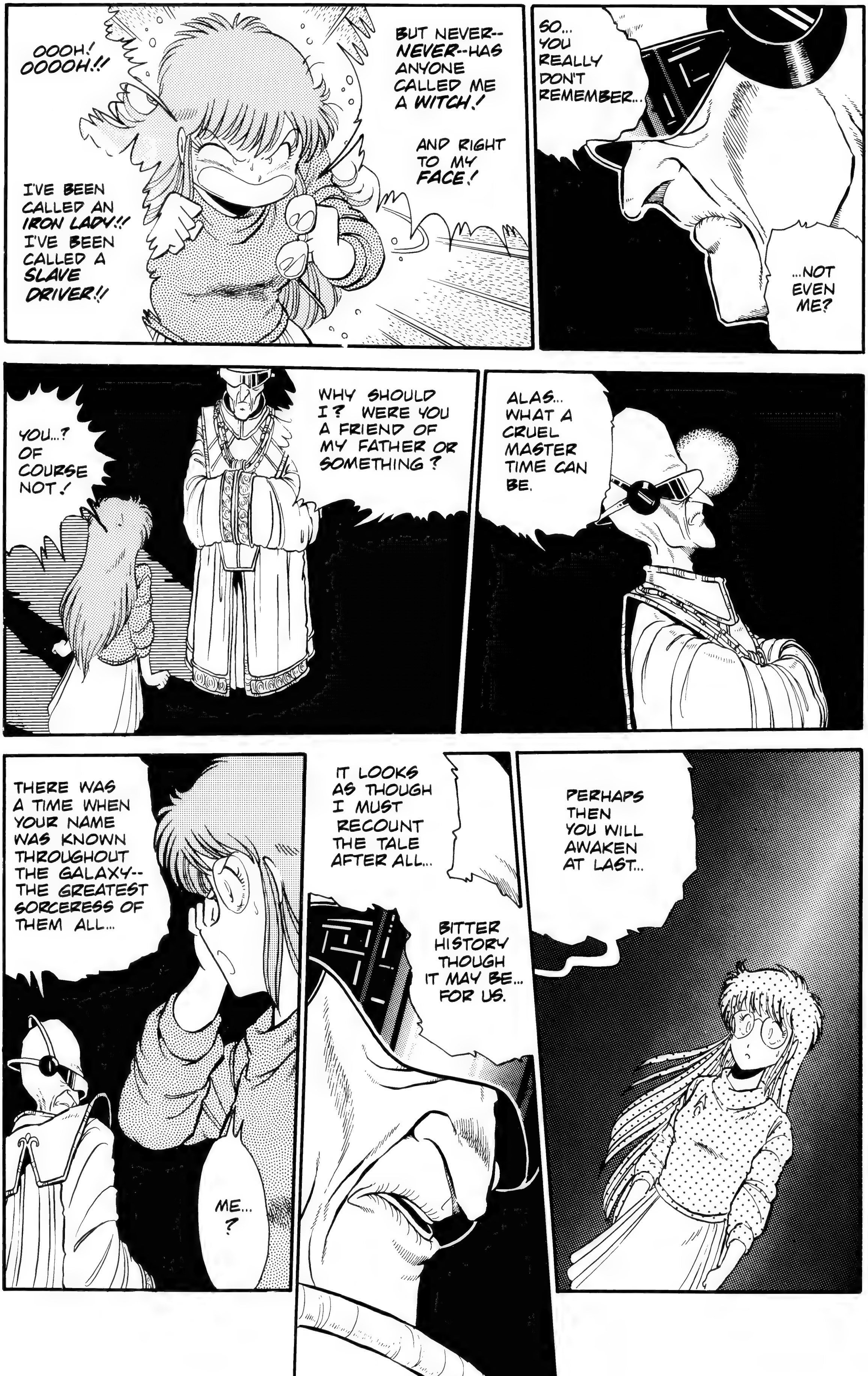

YOU HEAR ME?! ALL OF MY ANCESTORS WERE BORN ON THE SACRED PLANET!
IT'S THE MOTHER WORLD OF OUR ENTIRE EMPIRE! IF YOU DARE TRESPASS THERE...
THEN THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU DESERVES TO DIE!
I SAVED YOU BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE A LITTLE BIT CUTE!
BUT NOW I WISH YOU'D BEEN BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS ALONG WITH YOUR STUPID LITTLE ISLAND!!
....
FOR GOD'S SAKE... FIGHTING WITH HER OWN PET! KAHM, YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
US... THE INVADERS?

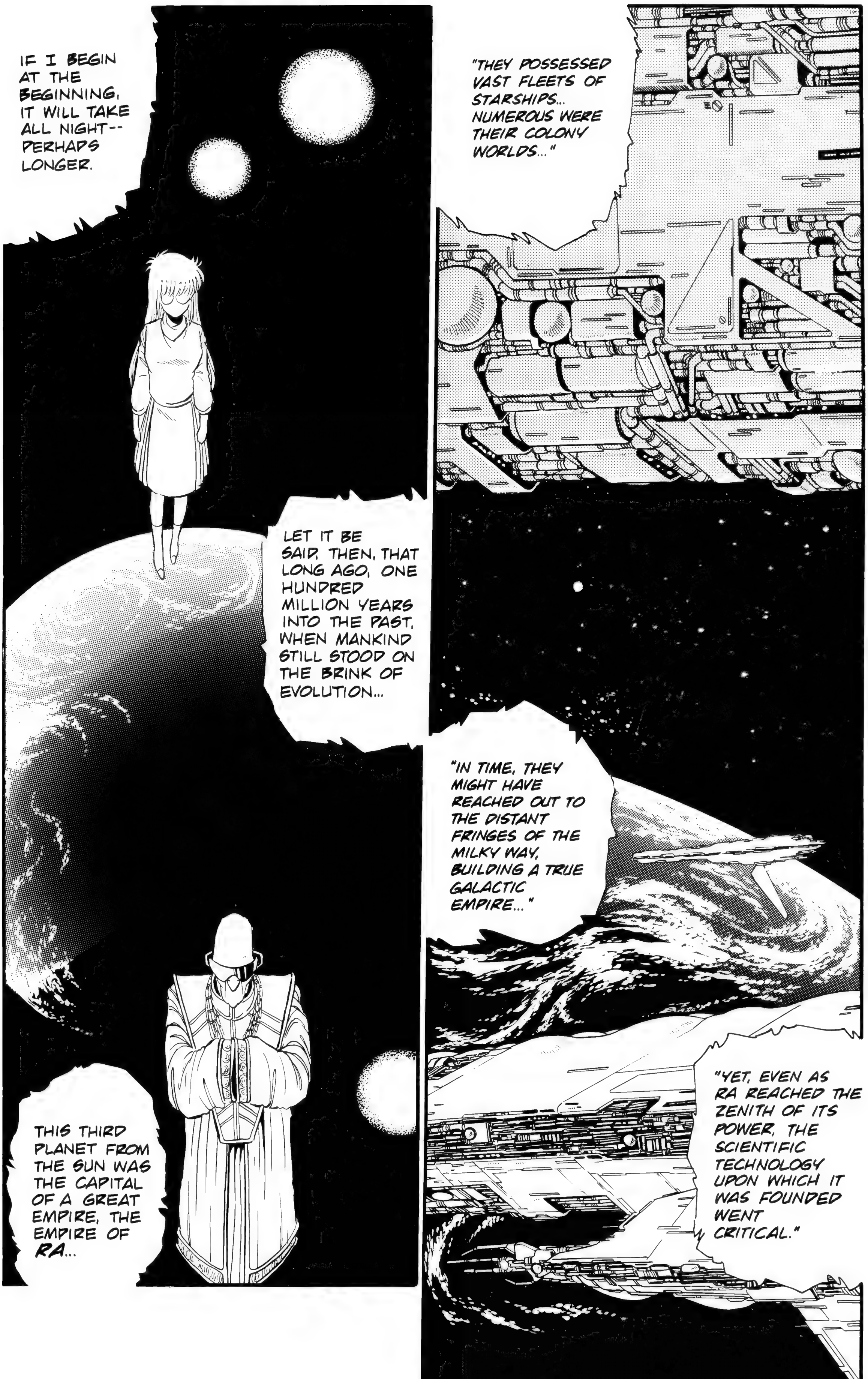

OOOOOOO
SOVIET ARMY: NOVOROSTOCK BASE
REALLY, WHAT KIND OF TASTE IN ART DO THESE SOVIETS **HAVE?**
BEYOND OUR UNDERSTANDING, THAT'S FOR SURE.

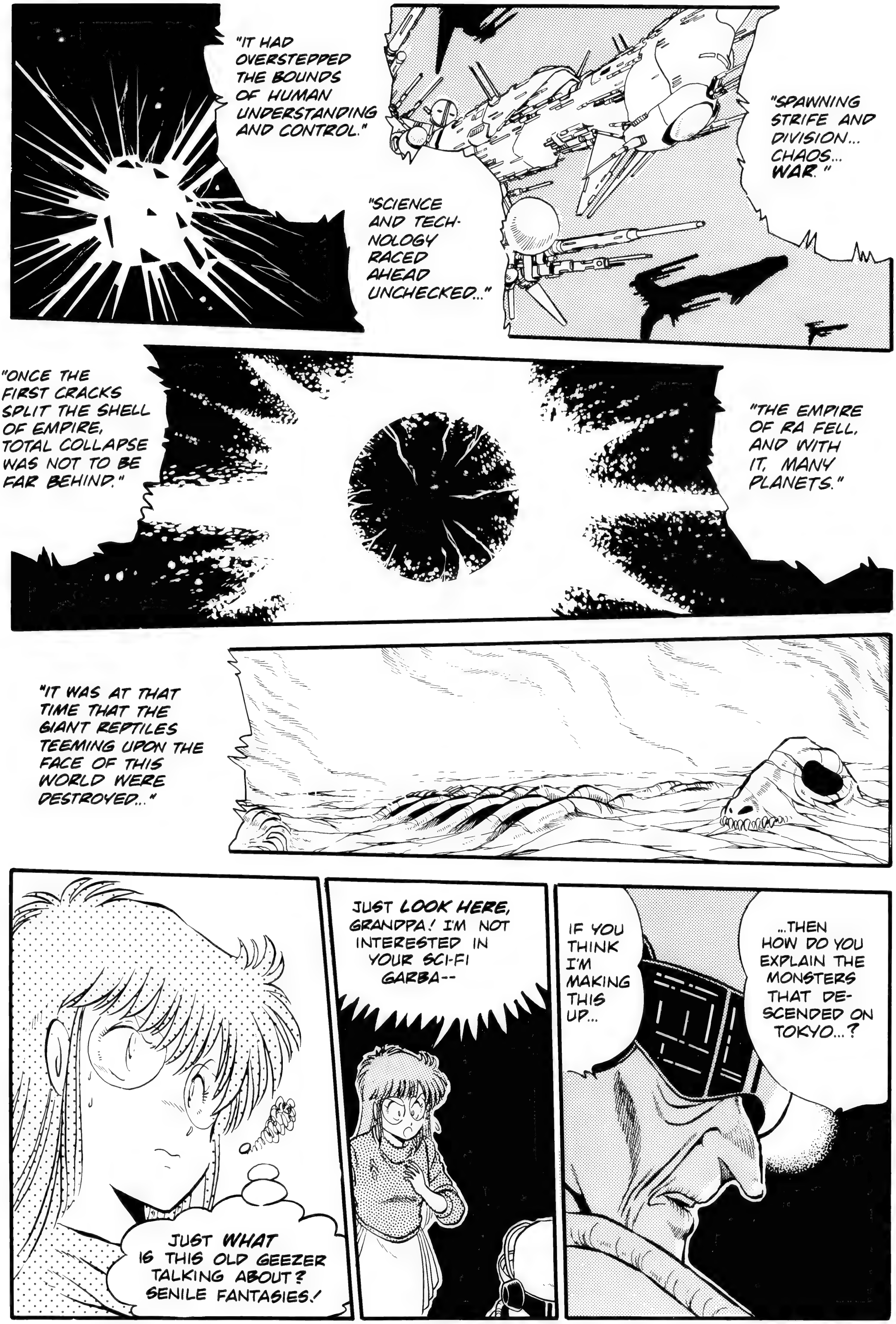

AND MASATO! TELLING ME TO WAIT IN THIS DARK ROOM...
JUST WHO DOES HE THINK I AM?
I MIGHT AS WELL BE IN JAIL!
IF ANYONE'S OUT THERE LISTENING, TAKE ME BACK TO TOKYO RIGHT NOW!
BUT... BUT THERE ISN'T ANY TOKYO ANYMORE...
"IT'S BEEN DESTROYED BY THE LEADER OF THOSE FIRST MONSTERS THAT CAME..."
"THE ENTIRE COUNTRY..."
CAN WHAT HE SAID REALLY BE TRUE...?
CAN TOKYO REALLY BE GONE? AND JAPAN?
AND TETSUYA...?
WELCOME, AKI OKAZAWA.
!
I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU SUCH A LONG, LONG TIME...

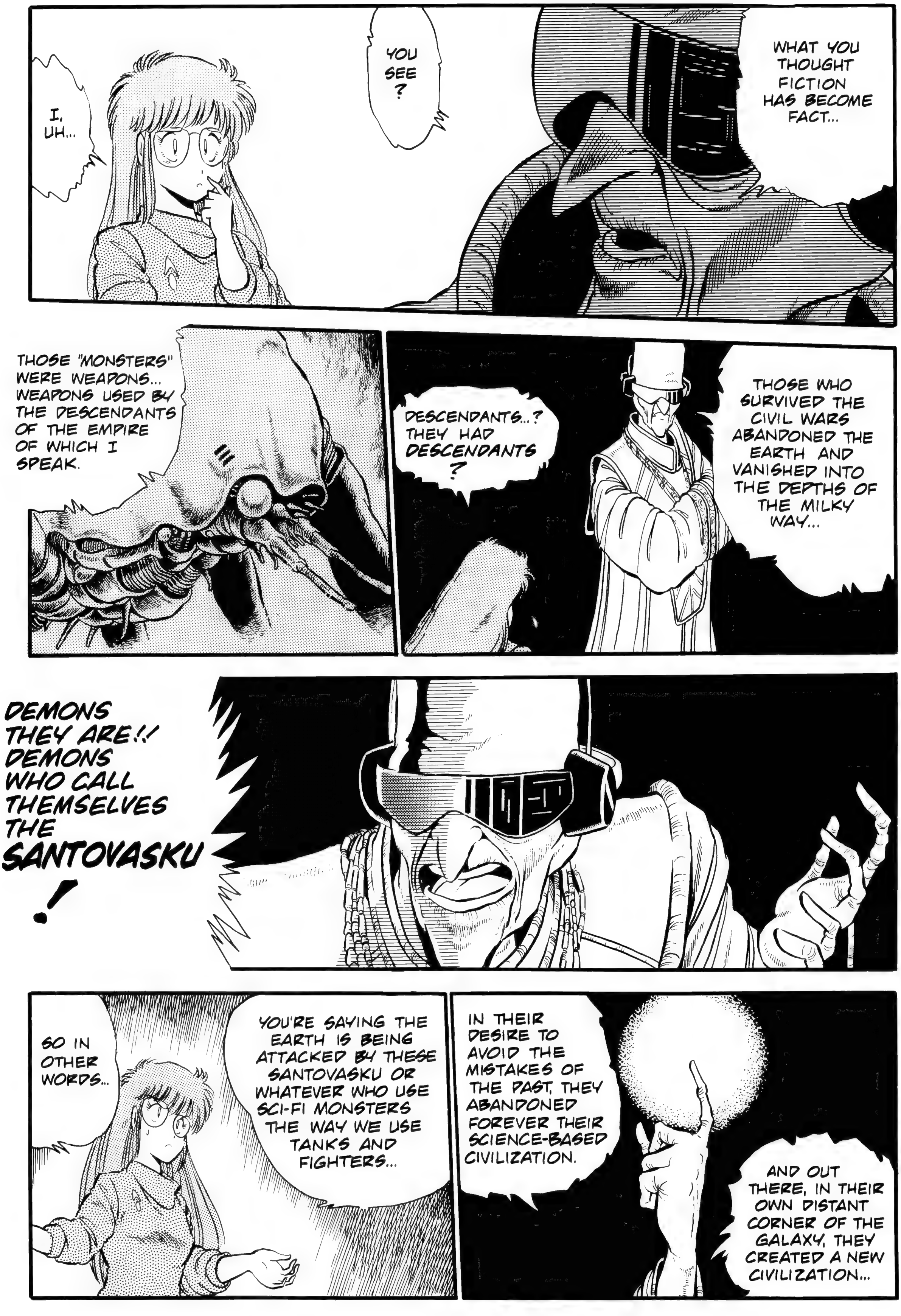

WHO... WHO ARE YOU...?
GREAT LEADER...
NEO...!
Y-YOU...? YOU'RE THE SHADOW LEADER?
EXACTY SO. THE LEADER OF ALL MANKIND...
FORGIVE ME WHEN WE'VE JUST ONLY MET...
...BUT COULD YOU PLEASE REMOVE YOUR GLASSES?
MY GLASSES?
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY... I JUST WANT TO SEE YOUR WHOLE FACE...

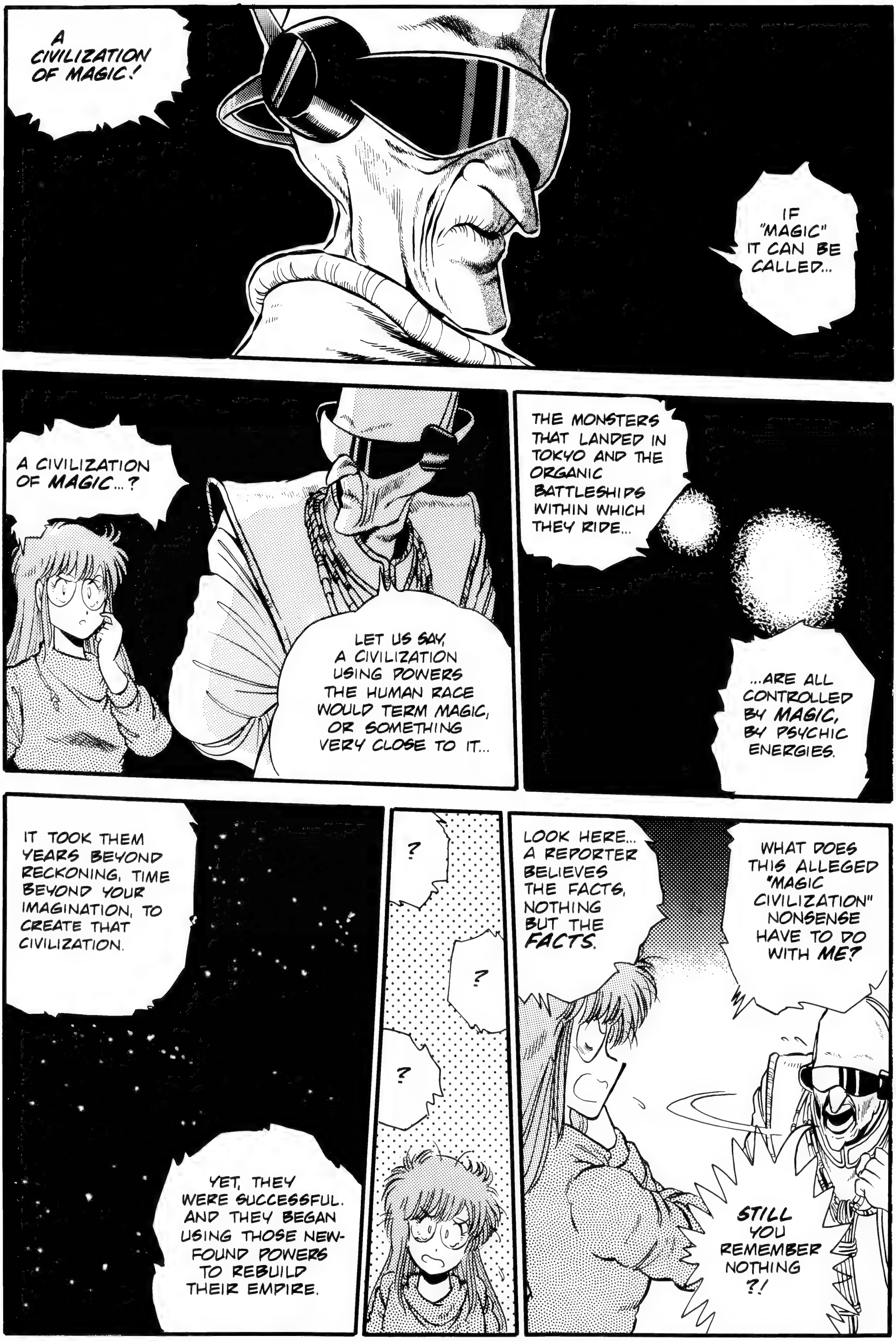

OKAY, BUT I CAN'T SEE A THING WITHOUT MY GLASSES...
IT...
IT'S TRUE!!
WHA?!
IT'S TRUE! IT'S AS THEY SAID-- YOU ARE JILEHR!
THE WITCH-QUEEN JILEHR!!
A WITCH?!?

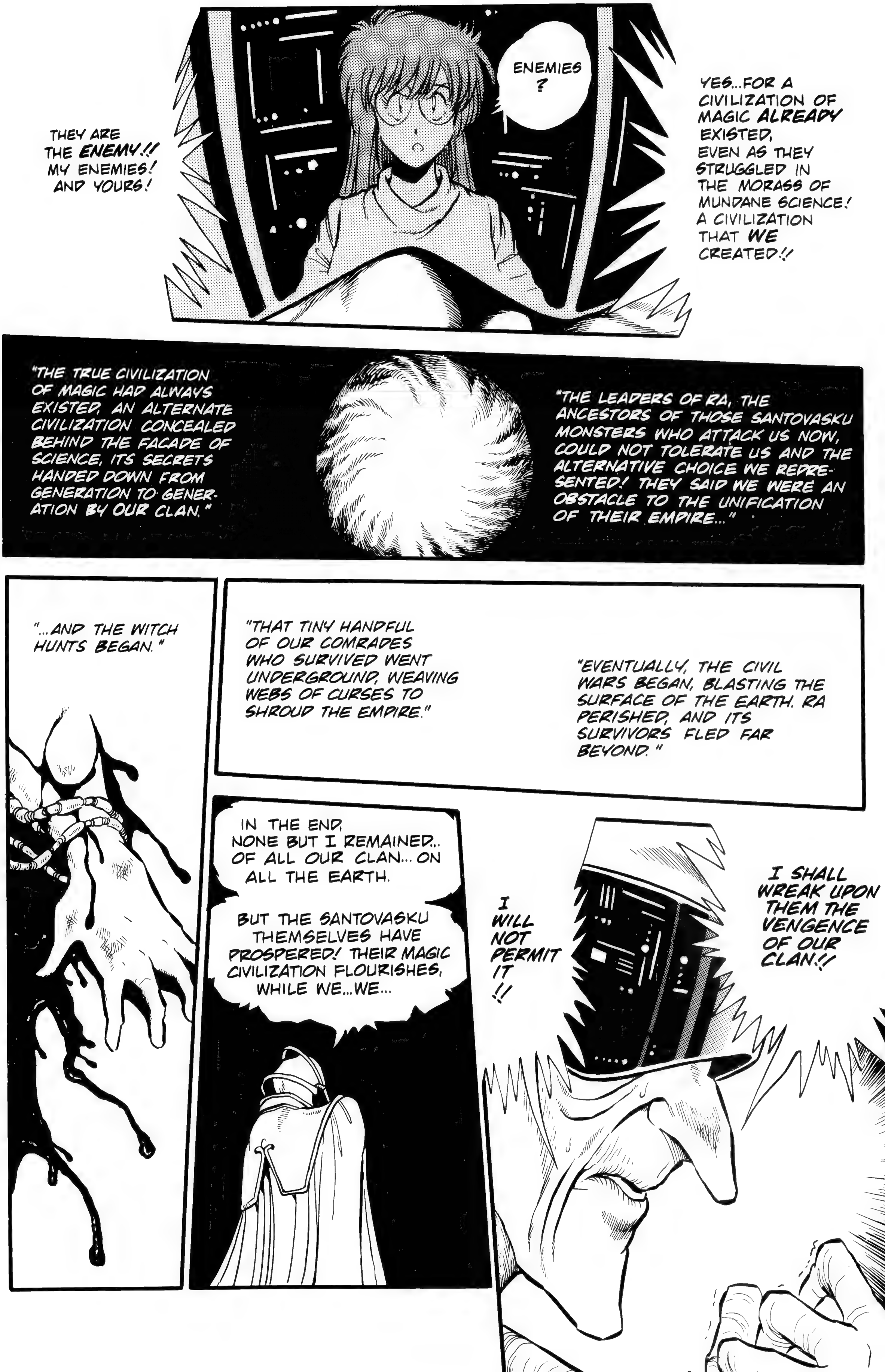

OOOH! OOOOH!!
I'VE BEEN CALLED AN IRON LADY!! I'VE BEEN CALLED A SLAVE DRIVER!!
BUT NEVER--NEVER--HAS ANYONE CALLED ME A WITCH!
AND RIGHT TO MY FACE!
SO... YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER...
...NOT EVEN ME?
YOU...? OF COURSE NOT!
WHY SHOULD I? WERE YOU A FRIEND OF MY FATHER OR SOMETHING?
ALAS... WHAT A CRUEL MASTER TIME CAN BE.
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOUR NAME WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY-- THE GREATEST SORCERESS OF THEM ALL...
ME...?
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH I MUST RECOUNT THE TALE AFTER ALL...
BITTER HISTORY THOUGH IT MAY BE... FOR US.
PERHAPS THEN YOU WILL AWAKEN AT LAST...

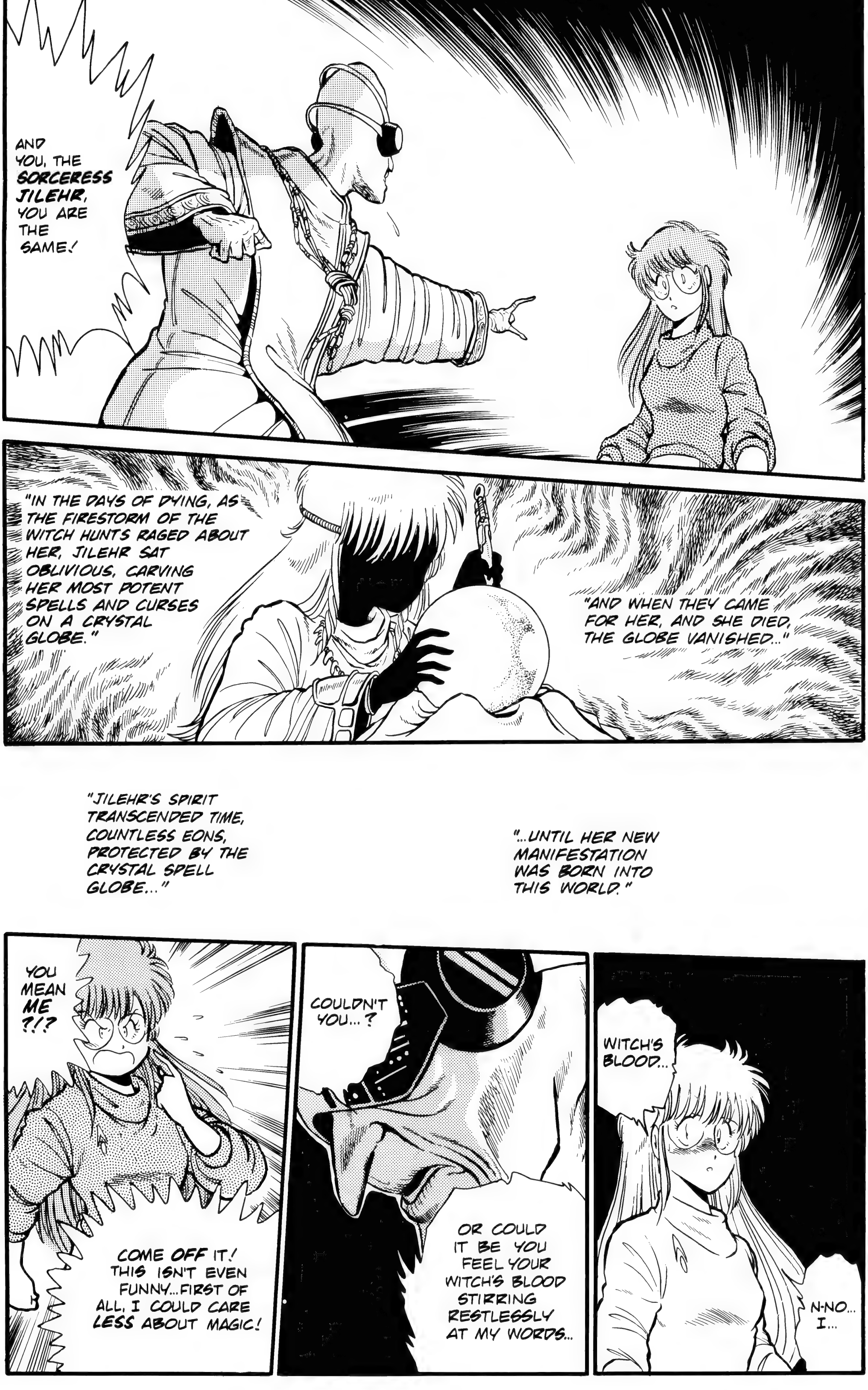

IF I BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING, IT WILL TAKE ALL NIGHT-- PERHAPS LONGER.
LET IT BE SAID, THEN, THAT LONG AGO, ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEARS INTO THE PAST, WHEN MANKIND STILL STOOD ON THE BRINK OF EVOLUTION...
THIS THIRD PLANET FROM THE SUN WAS THE CAPITAL OF A GREAT EMPIRE, THE EMPIRE OF *RA*...
"THEY POSSESSED VAST FLEETS OF STARSHIPS... NUMEROUS WERE THEIR COLONY WORLDS..."
"IN TIME, THEY MIGHT HAVE REACHED OUT TO THE DISTANT FRINGES OF THE MILKY WAY, BUILDING A TRUE GALACTIC EMPIRE..."
"YET, EVEN AS RA REACHED THE ZENITH OF ITS POWER, THE SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGY UPON WHICH IT WAS FOUNDED WENT CRITICAL."

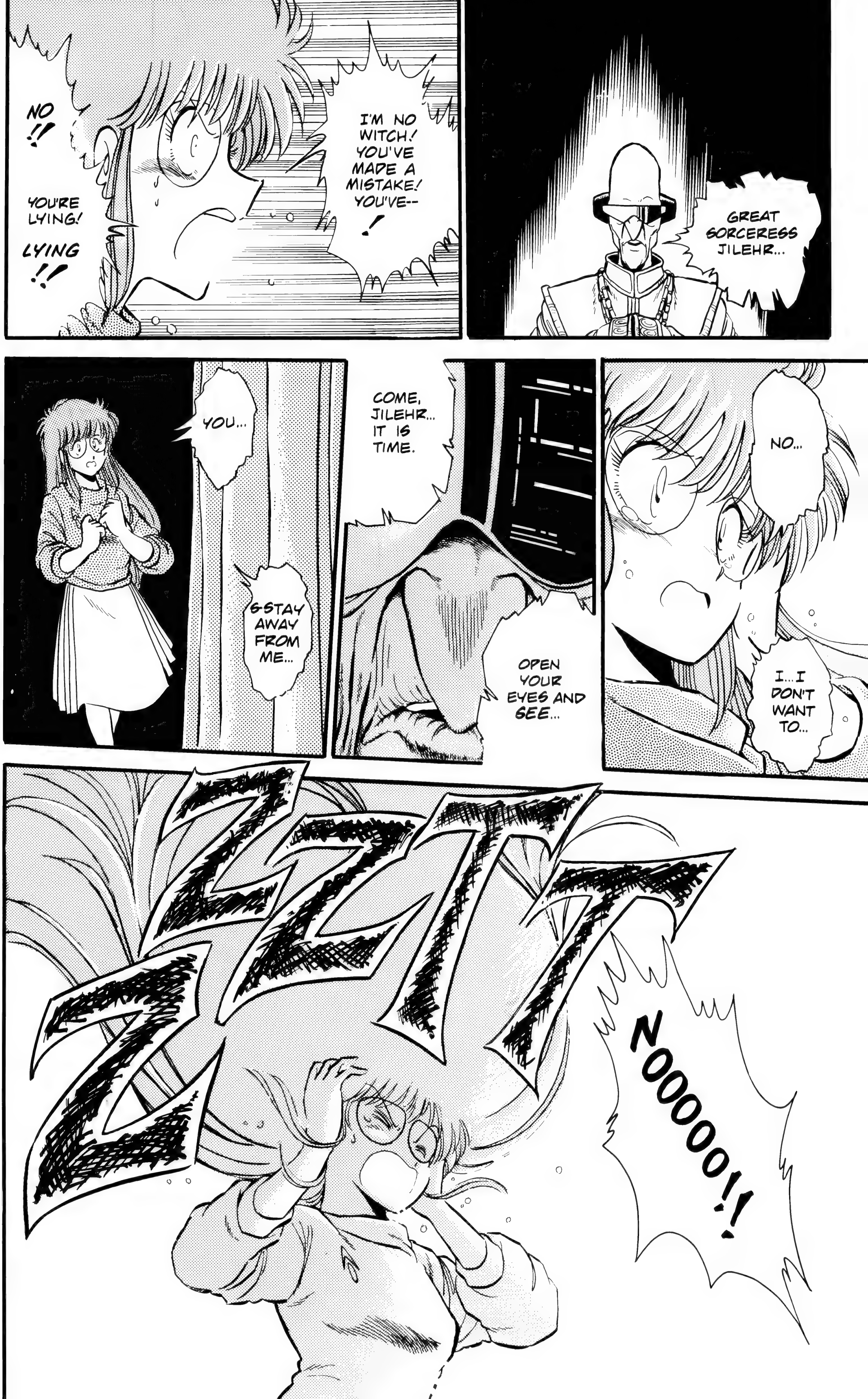

"IT HAD OVERSTEPPED THE BOUNDS OF HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND CONTROL."
"SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RACED AHEAD UNCHECKED..."
"SPAWNING STRIFE AND DIVISION... CHAOS... **WAR**."
"ONCE THE FIRST CRACKS SPLIT THE SHELL OF EMPIRE, TOTAL COLLAPSE WAS NOT TO BE FAR BEHIND."
"THE EMPIRE OF RA FELL, AND WITH IT, MANY PLANETS."
"IT WAS AT THAT TIME THAT THE GIANT REPTILES TEEMING UPON THE FACE OF THIS WORLD WERE DESTROYED..."
JUST **WHAT** IS THIS OLD GEEZER TALKING ABOUT? SENILE FANTASIES!
JUST **LOOK HERE**, GRANDPA! I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR SCI-FI GARBA--
IF YOU THINK I'M MAKING THIS UP...
...THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE MONSTERS THAT DESCENDED ON TOKYO...?

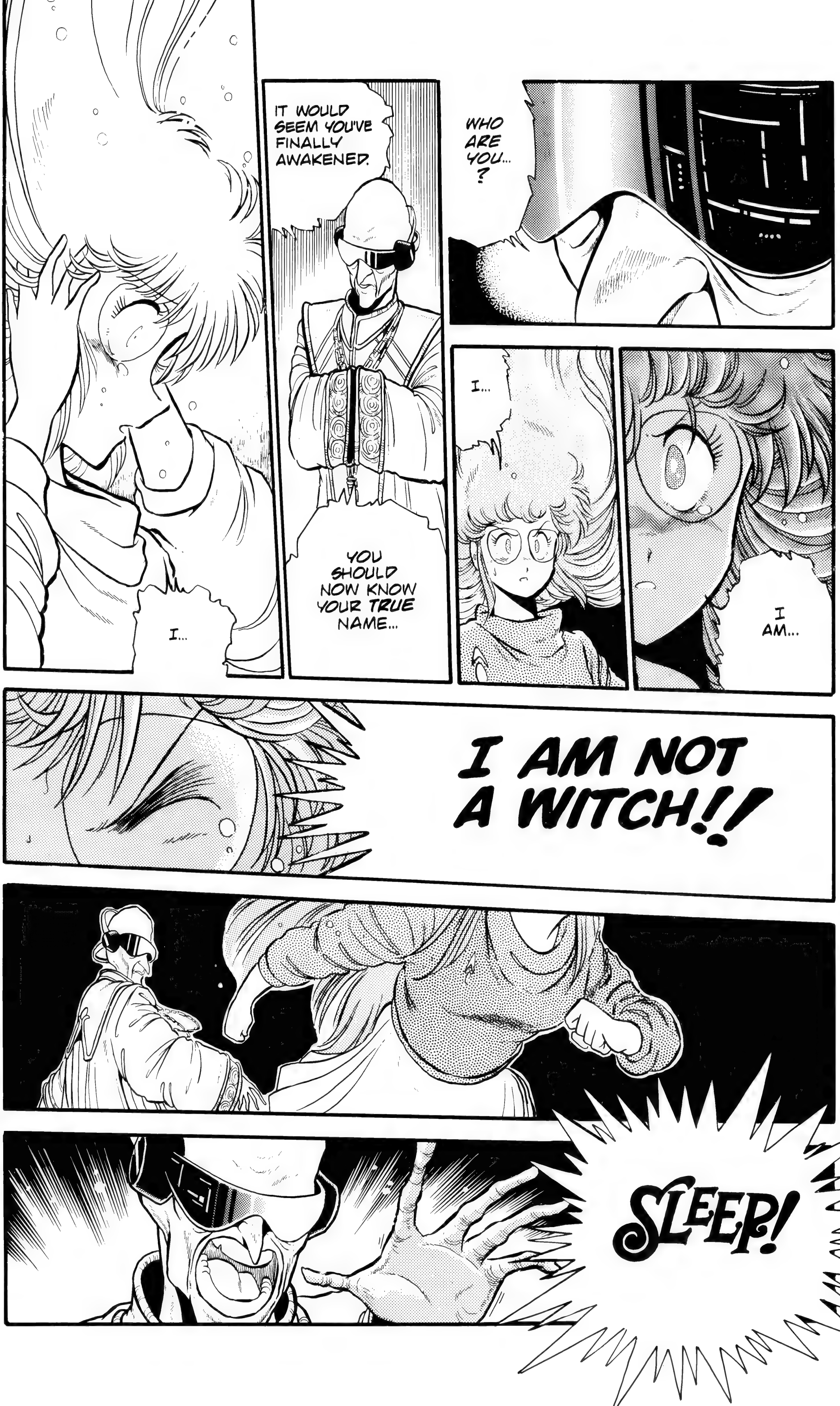

I, UH...
YOU SEE?
WHAT YOU THOUGHT FICTION HAS BECOME FACT...
THOSE "MONSTERS" WERE WEAPONS... WEAPONS USED BY THE DESCENDANTS OF THE EMPIRE OF WHICH I SPEAK.
DESCENDANTS...? THEY HAD DESCENDANTS?
THOSE WHO SURVIVED THE CIVIL WARS ABANDONED THE EARTH AND VANISHED INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE MILKY WAY...
DEMONS THEY ARE!! DEMONS WHO CALL THEMSELVES THE SANTOVASKU!
SO IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU'RE SAYING THE EARTH IS BEING ATTACKED BY THESE SANTOVASKU OR WHATEVER WHO USE SCI-FI MONSTERS THE WAY WE USE TANKS AND FIGHTERS...
IN THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST, THEY ABANDONED FOREVER THEIR SCIENCE-BASED CIVILIZATION.
AND OUT THERE, IN THEIR OWN DISTANT CORNER OF THE GALAXY, THEY CREATED A NEW CIVILIZATION...

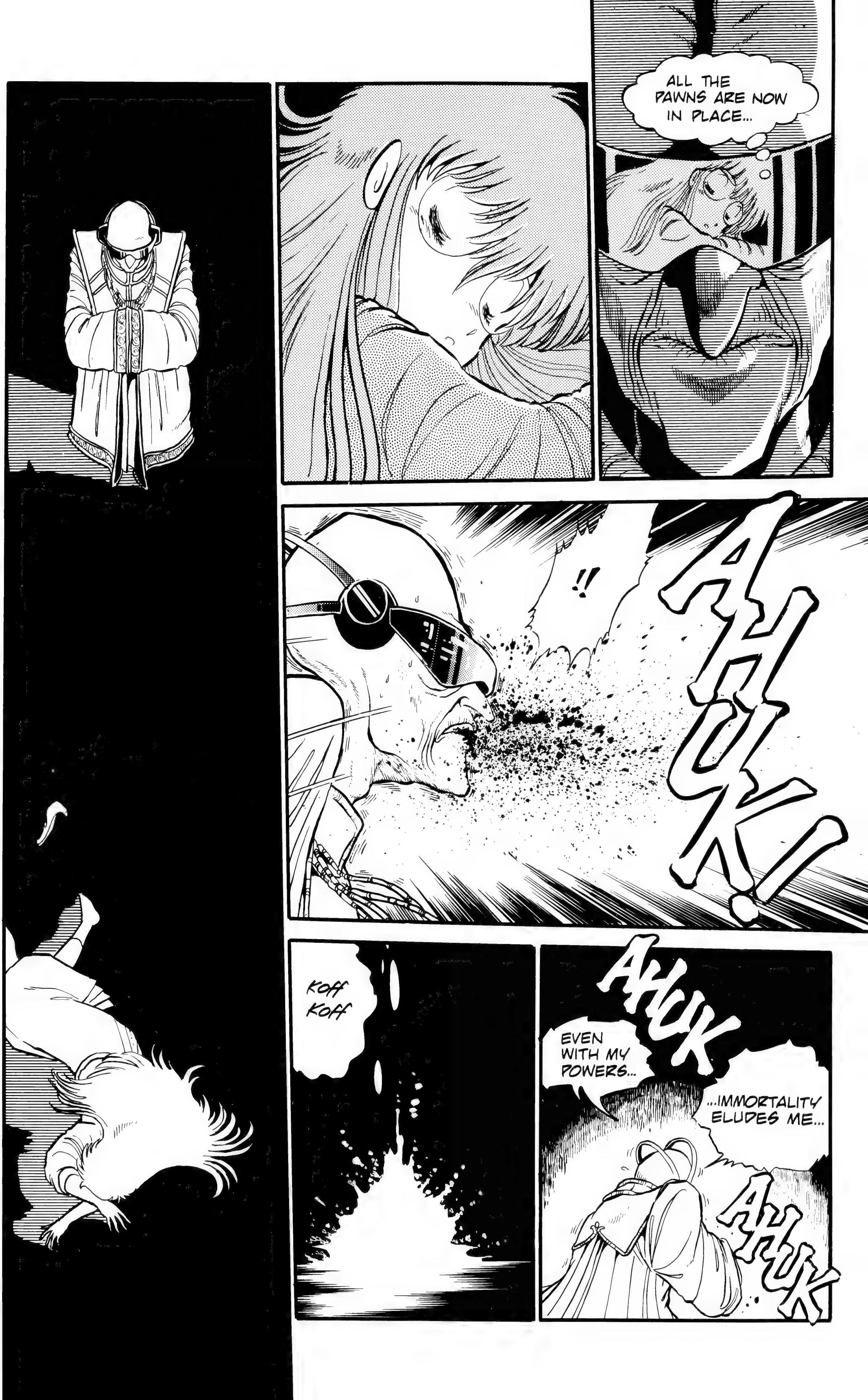

A CIVILIZATION OF MAGIC!
IF "MAGIC" IT CAN BE CALLED...
A CIVILIZATION OF *MAGIC*...?
LET US SAY, A CIVILIZATION USING POWERS THE HUMAN RACE WOULD TERM MAGIC, OR SOMETHING VERY CLOSE TO IT...
THE MONSTERS THAT LANDED IN TOKYO AND THE ORGANIC BATTLESHIPS WITHIN WHICH THEY RIDE...
...ARE ALL CONTROLLED BY *MAGIC*, BY PSYCHIC ENERGIES.
IT TOOK THEM YEARS BEYOND RECKONING, TIME BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION, TO CREATE THAT CIVILIZATION.
YET, THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL. AND THEY BEGAN USING THOSE NEW-FOUND POWERS TO REBUILD THEIR EMPIRE.
?
?
?
LOOK HERE... A REPORTER BELIEVES THE FACTS, NOTHING BUT THE *FACTS*.
WHAT DOES THIS ALLEGED "MAGIC CIVILIZATION" NONSENSE HAVE TO DO WITH *ME?*
STILL YOU REMEMBER NOTHING ?!

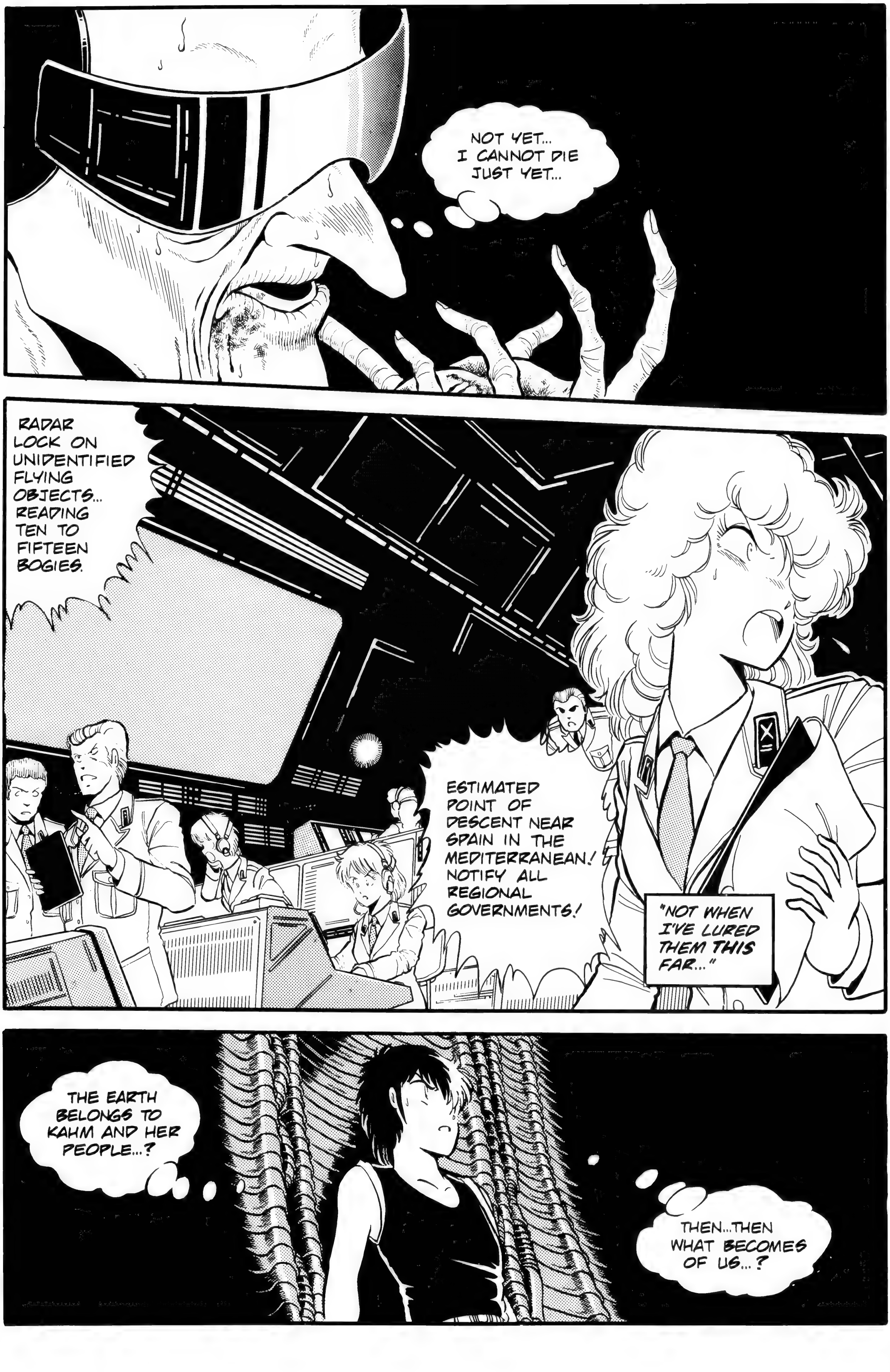

THEY ARE THE ENEMY!! MY ENEMIES! AND YOURS!
ENEMIES ?
YES...FOR A CIVILIZATION OF MAGIC ALREADY EXISTED, EVEN AS THEY STRUGGLED IN THE MORASS OF MUNDANE SCIENCE! A CIVILIZATION THAT WE CREATED!!
"THE TRUE CIVILIZATION OF MAGIC HAD ALWAYS EXISTED, AN ALTERNATE CIVILIZATION CONCEALED BEHIND THE FACADE OF SCIENCE, ITS SECRETS HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION BY OUR CLAN."
"THE LEADERS OF RA, THE ANCESTORS OF THOSE SANTOVASKU MONSTERS WHO ATTACK US NOW, COULD NOT TOLERATE US AND THE ALTERNATIVE CHOICE WE REPRESENTED! THEY SAID WE WERE AN OBSTACLE TO THE UNIFICATION OF THEIR EMPIRE..."
"...AND THE WITCH HUNTS BEGAN."
"THAT TINY HANDFUL OF OUR COMRADES WHO SURVIVED WENT UNDERGROUND, WEAVING WEBS OF CURSES TO SHROUD THE EMPIRE."
"EVENTUALLY, THE CIVIL WARS BEGAN, BLASTING THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH. RA PERISHED, AND ITS SURVIVORS FLED FAR BEYOND."
IN THE END, NONE BUT I REMAINED... OF ALL OUR CLAN... ON ALL THE EARTH.
BUT THE SANTOVASKU THEMSELVES HAVE PROSPERED! THEIR MAGIC CIVILIZATION FLOURISHES, WHILE WE...WE...
I WILL NOT PERMIT IT !!
I SHALL WREAK UPON THEM THE VENGENCE OF OUR CLAN!!


AND YOU, THE **SORCERESS JILEHR**, YOU ARE THE SAME!
"IN THE DAYS OF DYING, AS THE FIRESTORM OF THE WITCH HUNTS RAGED ABOUT HER, JILEHR SAT OBLIVIOUS, CARVING HER MOST POTENT SPELLS AND CURSES ON A CRYSTAL GLOBE."
"AND WHEN THEY CAME FOR HER, AND SHE DIED, THE GLOBE VANISHED..."
"JILEHR'S SPIRIT TRANSCENDED TIME, COUNTLESS EONS, PROTECTED BY THE CRYSTAL SPELL GLOBE..."
"...UNTIL HER NEW MANIFESTATION WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD."
YOU MEAN **ME** ?!?
COME **OFF** IT! THIS ISN'T EVEN FUNNY...FIRST OF ALL, I COULD CARE **LESS** ABOUT MAGIC!
COULDN'T YOU...?
OR COULD IT BE YOU FEEL YOUR WITCH'S BLOOD STIRRING RESTLESSLY AT MY WORDS...
WITCH'S BLOOD...
N-NO... I...


NO!!
YOU'RE LYING!
LYING!!
I'M NO WITCH! YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE! YOU'VE--!
GREAT SORCERESS JILEHR...
YOU...
S-STAY AWAY FROM ME...
COME, JILEHR... IT IS TIME.
OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE...
NO...
I...I DON'T WANT TO...
ZZZT
NOOOOO!!

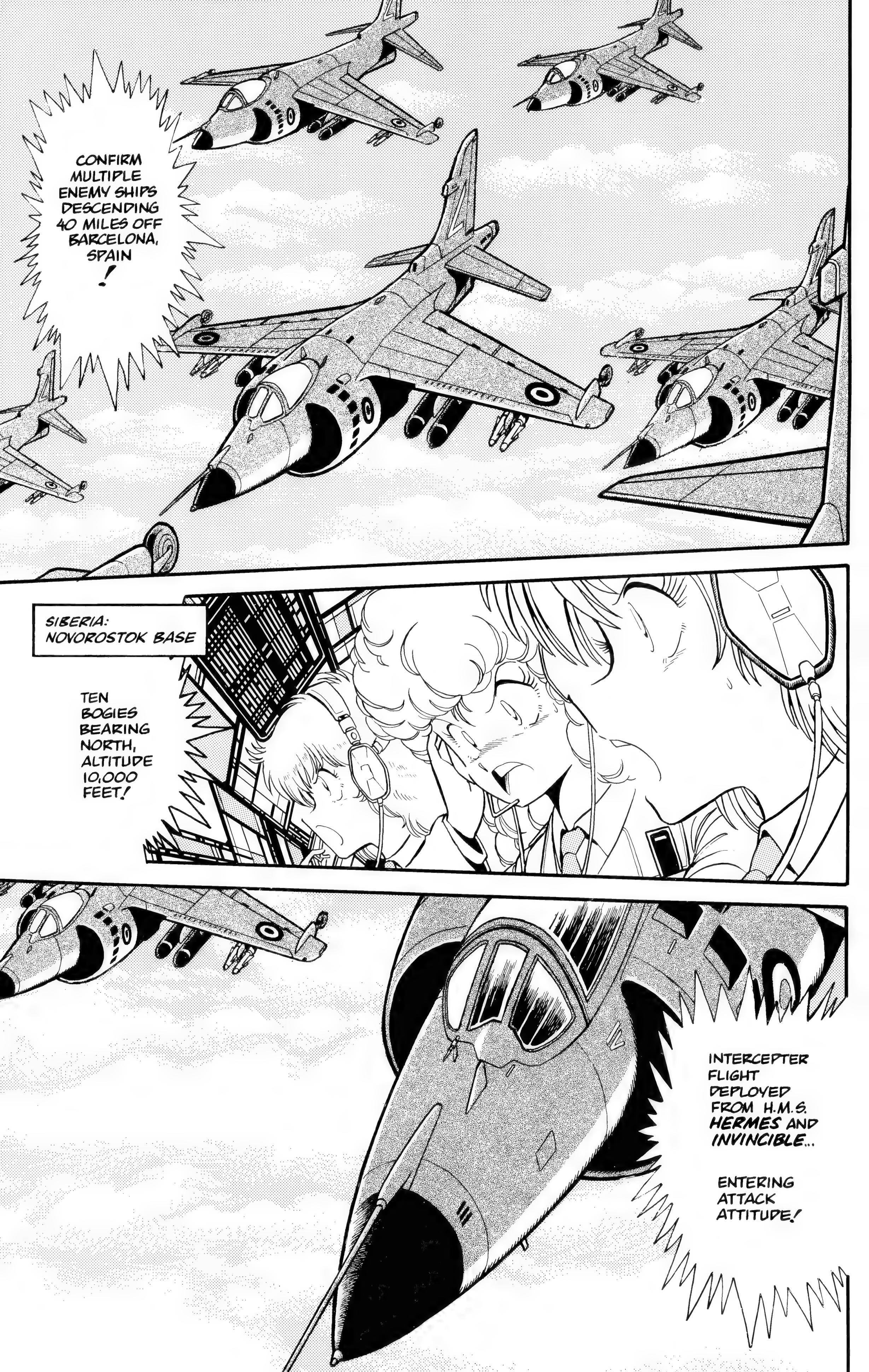

WHO ARE YOU... ?
IT WOULD SEEM YOU'VE FINALLY AWAKENED.
YOU SHOULD NOW KNOW YOUR TRUE NAME...
I...
I...
I AM...
I AM NOT A WITCH!!
SLEEP!

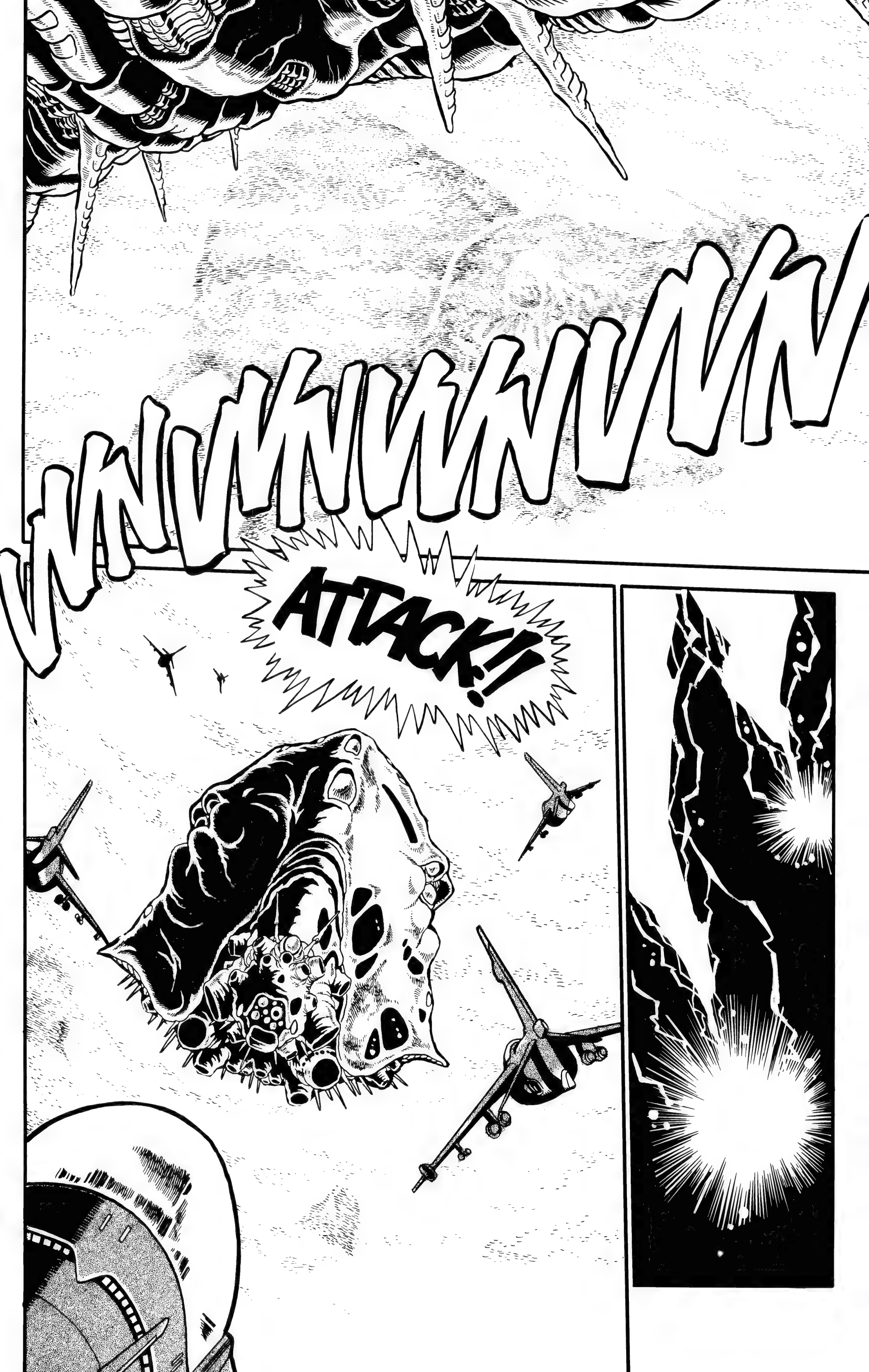

ALL THE PAWNS ARE NOW IN PLACE...
!!
AHUK!
KOFF KOFF
AHUK
EVEN WITH MY POWERS...
...IMMORTALITY ELUDES ME...
AHUK

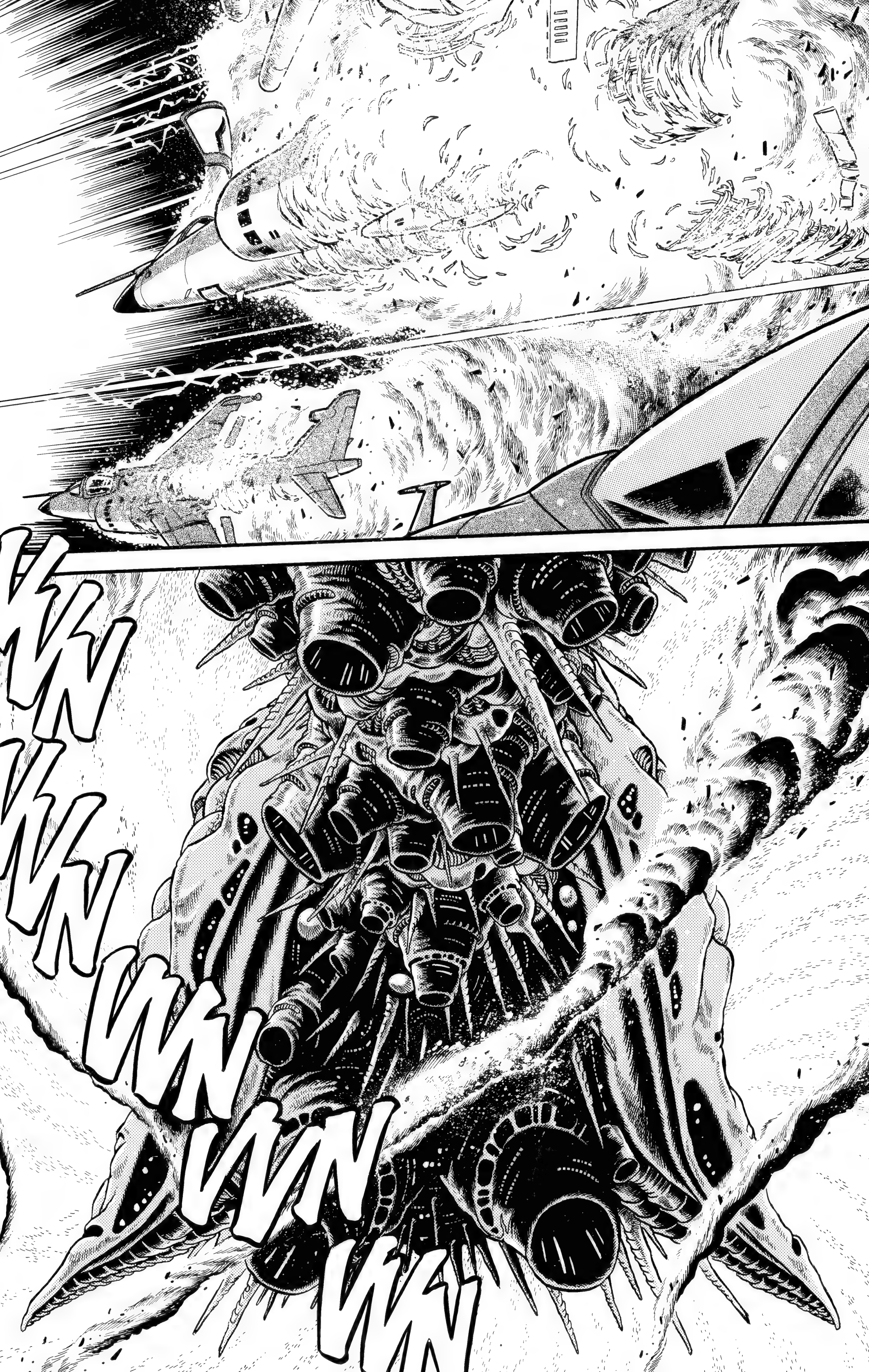

NOT YET... I CANNOT DIE JUST YET...
RADAR LOCK ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS... READING TEN TO FIFTEEN BOGIES.
ESTIMATED POINT OF DESCENT NEAR SPAIN IN THE MEDITERRANEAN! NOTIFY ALL REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS!
"NOT WHEN I'VE LURED THEM **THIS** FAR..."
THE EARTH BELONGS TO KAHM AND HER PEOPLE...?
THEN...THEN WHAT BECOMES OF US...?

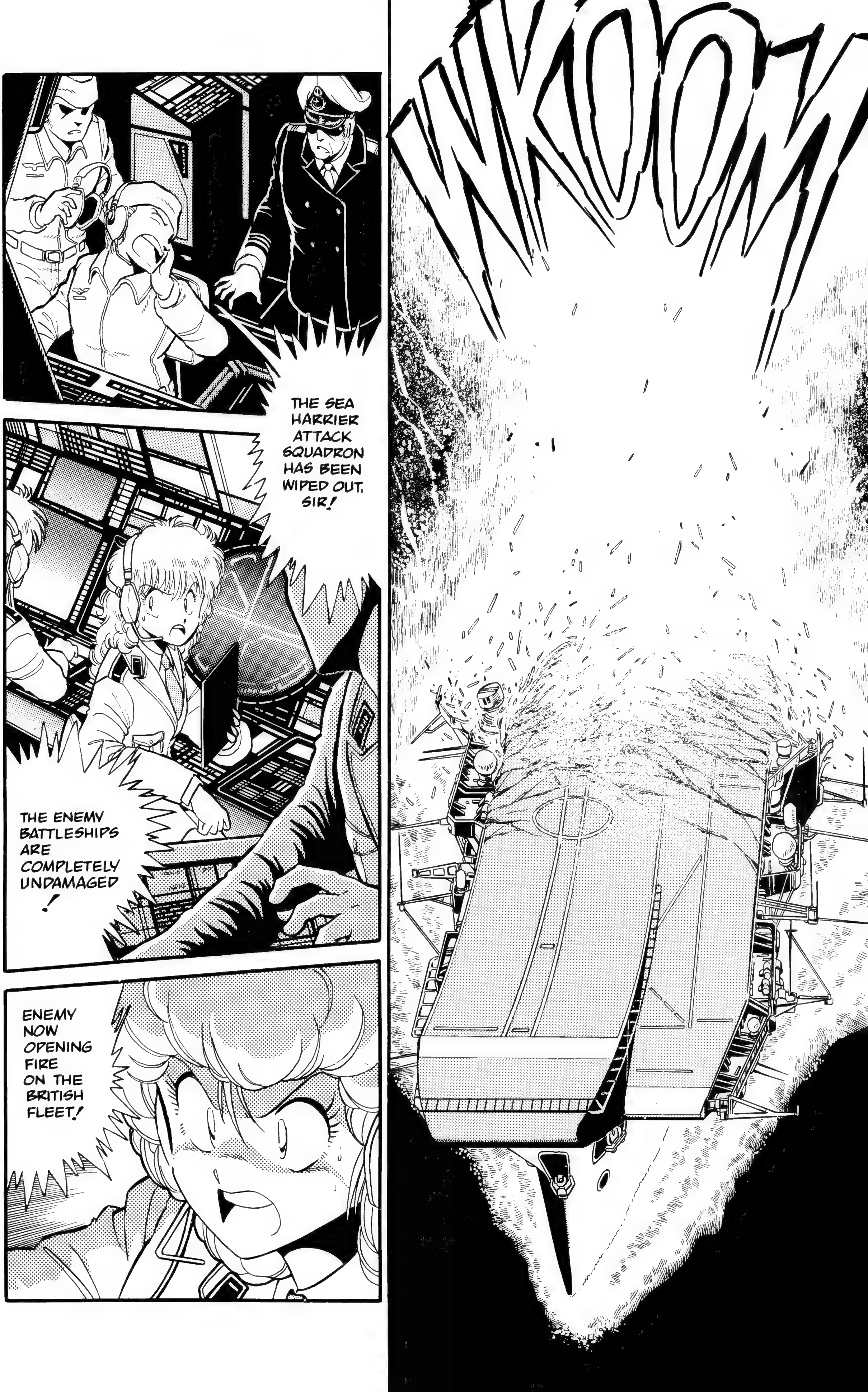
CHAPTER

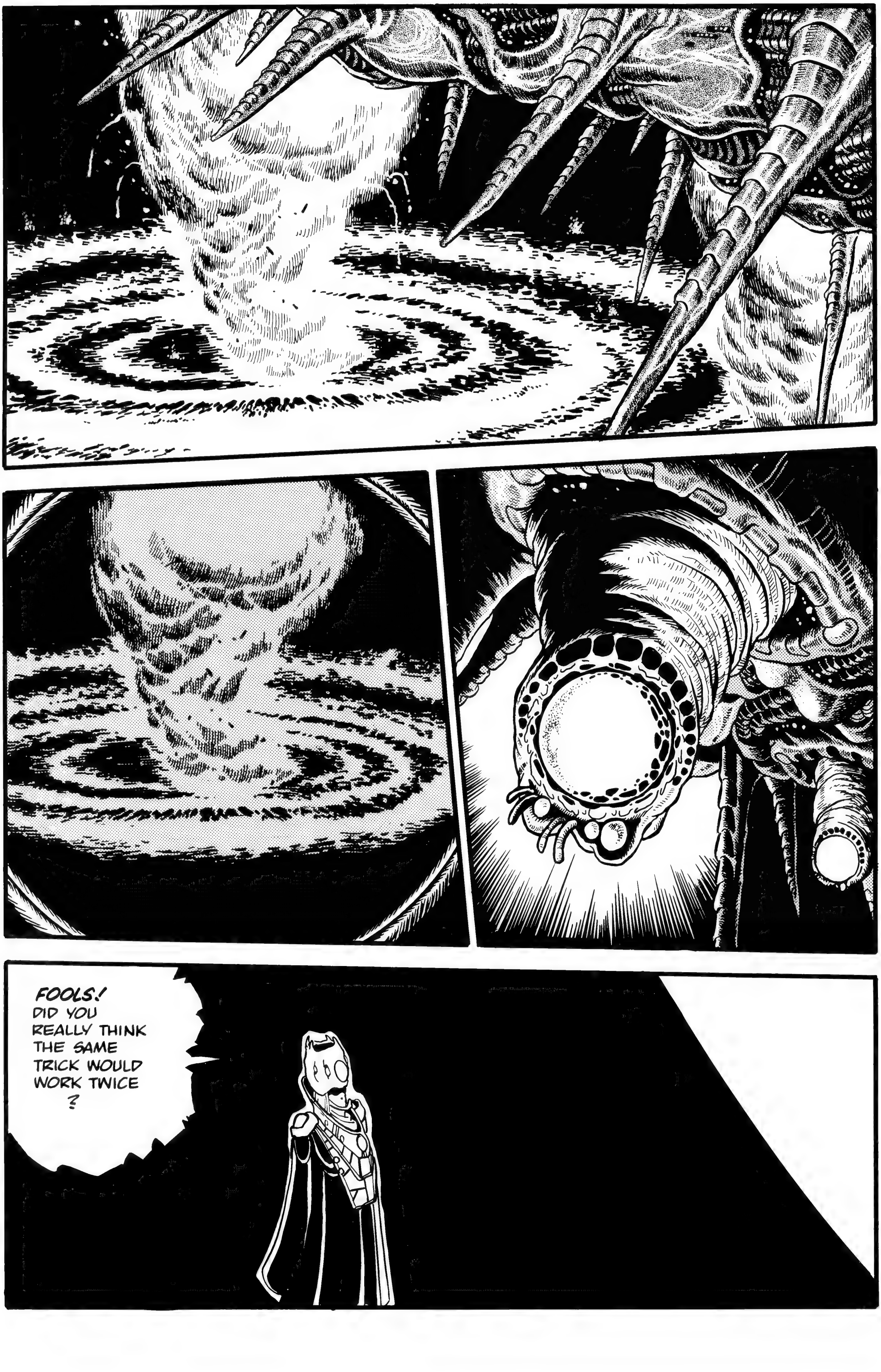
6

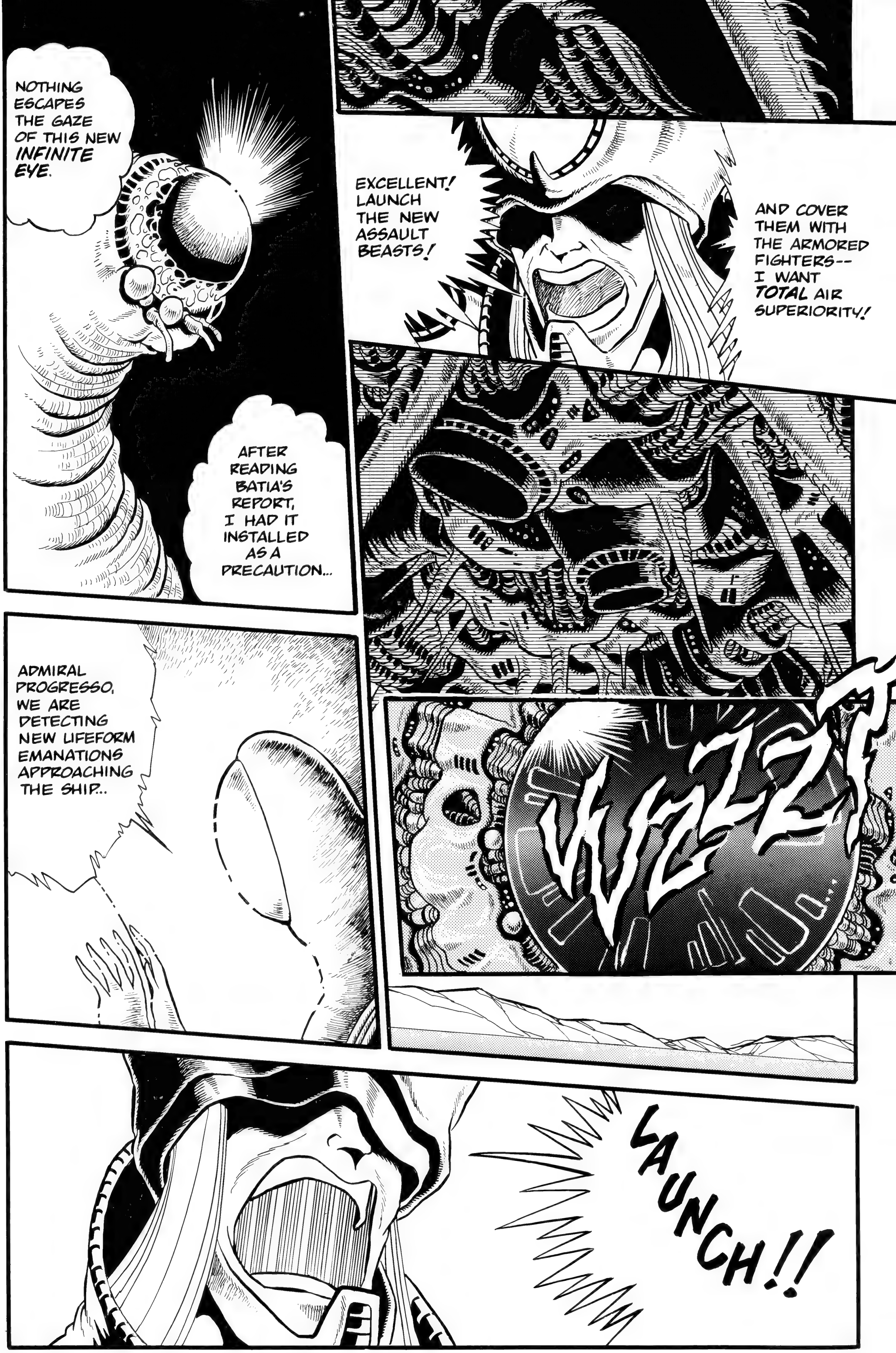

CONFIRM MULTIPLE ENEMY SHIPS DESCENDING 40 MILES OFF BARCELONA, SPAIN!
SIBERIA: NOVOROSTOK BASE
TEN BOGIES BEARING NORTH, ALTITUDE 10,000 FEET!
INTERCEPTER FLIGHT DEPLOYED FROM H.M.S. ***HERMES*** AND ***INVINCIBLE***...
ENTERING ATTACK ATTITUDE!

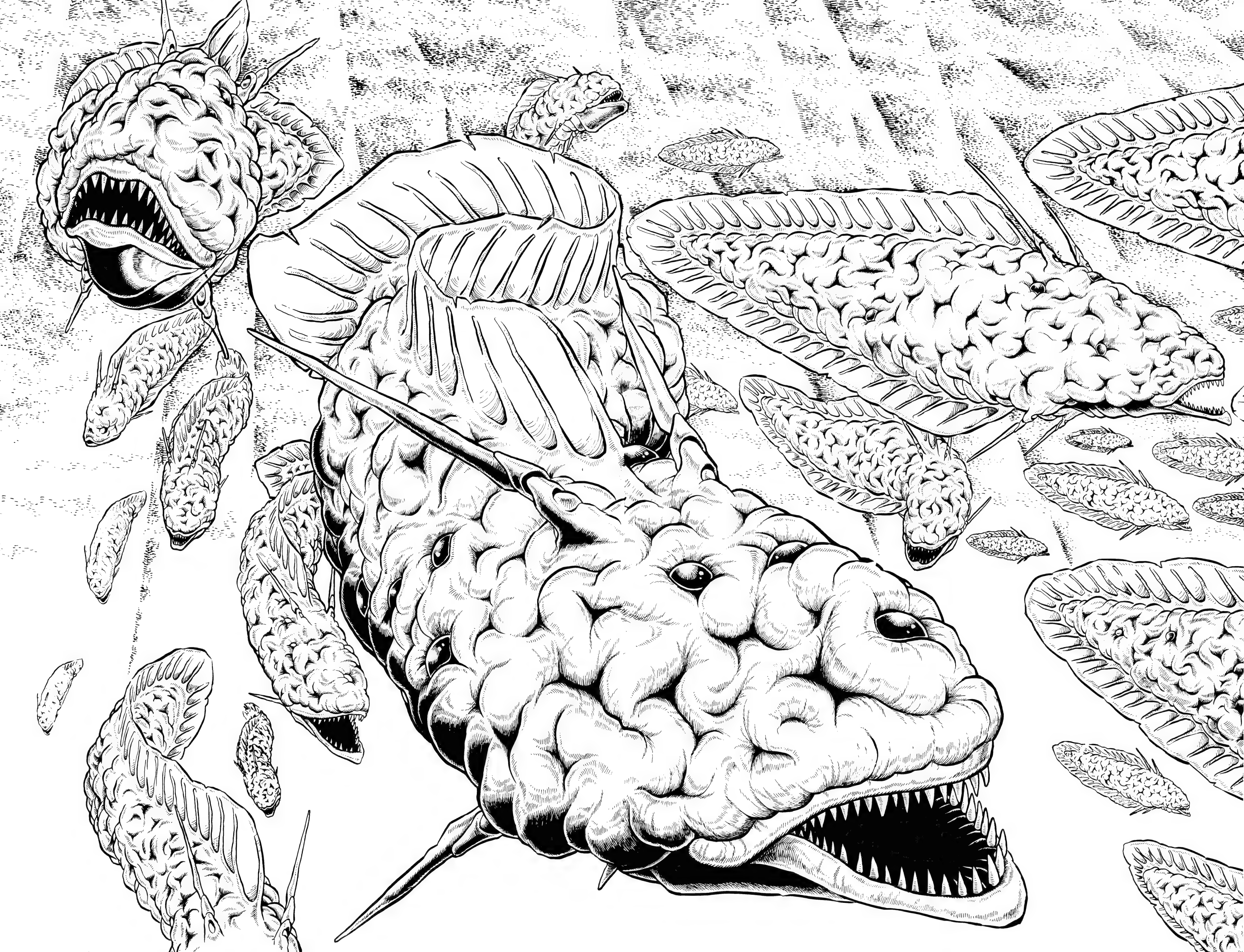

VNNNNNNNNNNNN
ATTACK!!

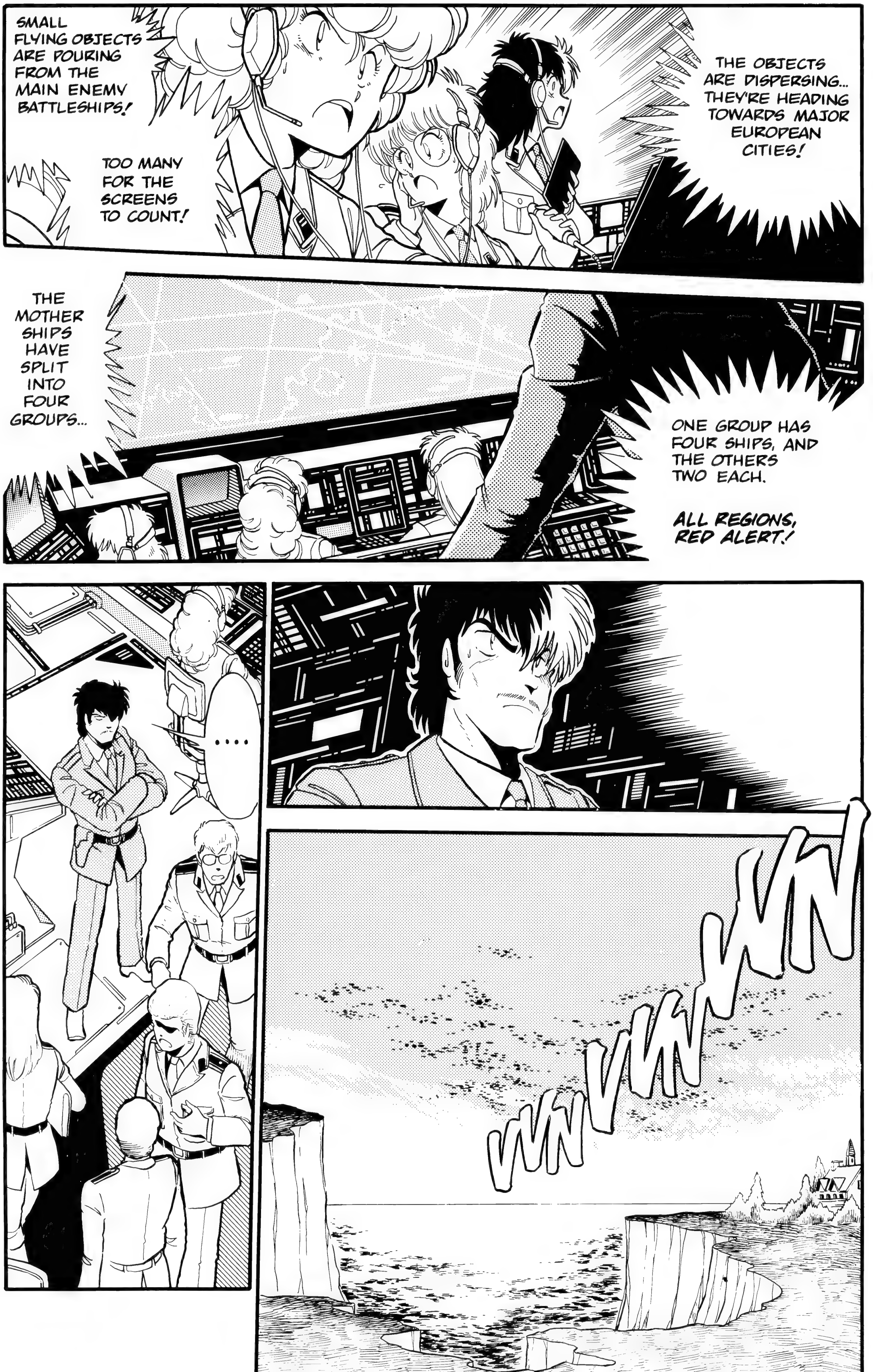

VVN VVN VVN VVN VVN VVN VVN

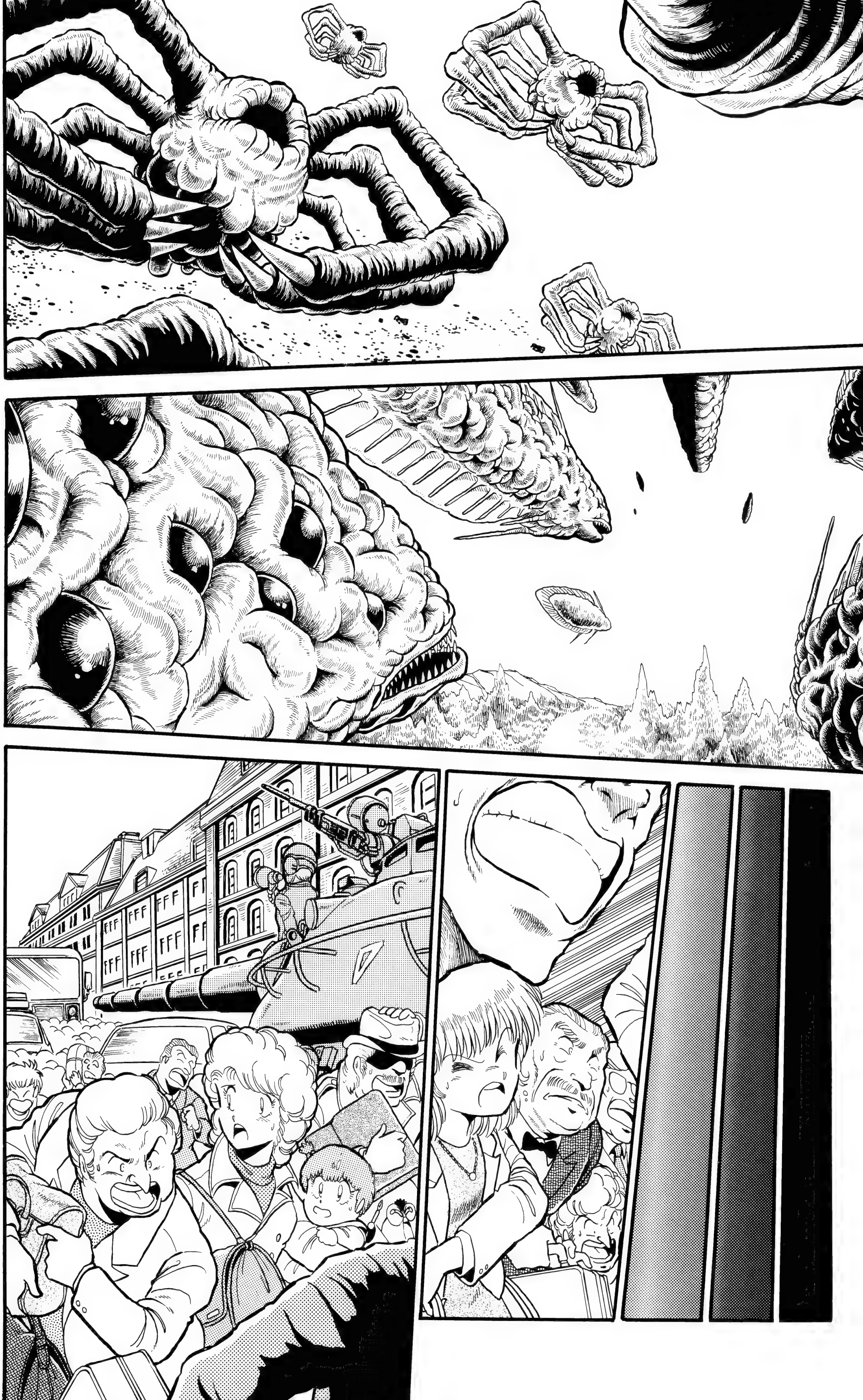

THE SEA HARRIER ATTACK SQUADRON HAS BEEN WIPED OUT, SIR!
THE ENEMY BATTLESHIPS ARE COMPLETELY UNDAMAGED!
ENEMY NOW OPENING FIRE ON THE BRITISH FLEET!
WKOOM

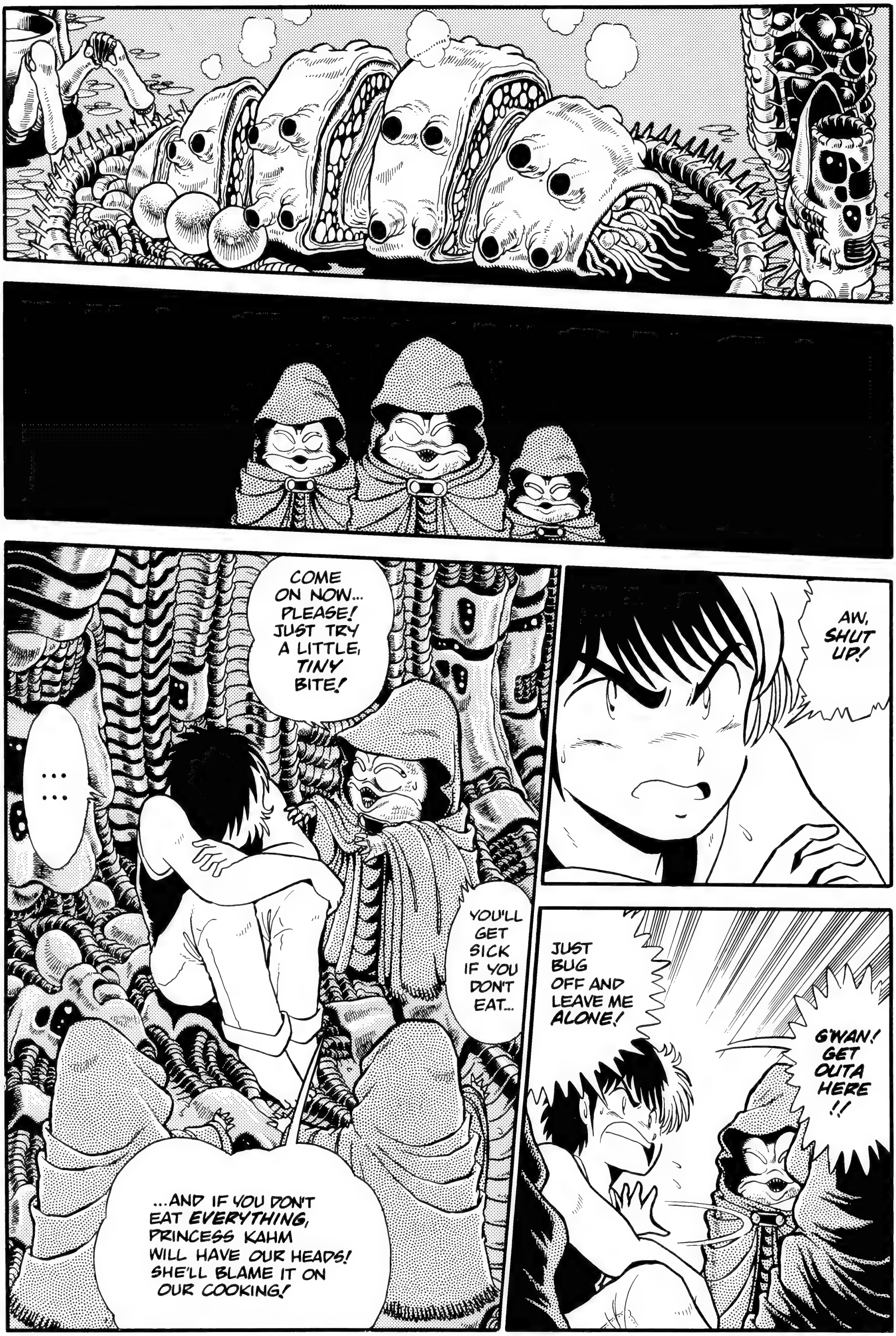

FOOLS! DID YOU REALLY THINK THE SAME TRICK WOULD WORK TWICE ?

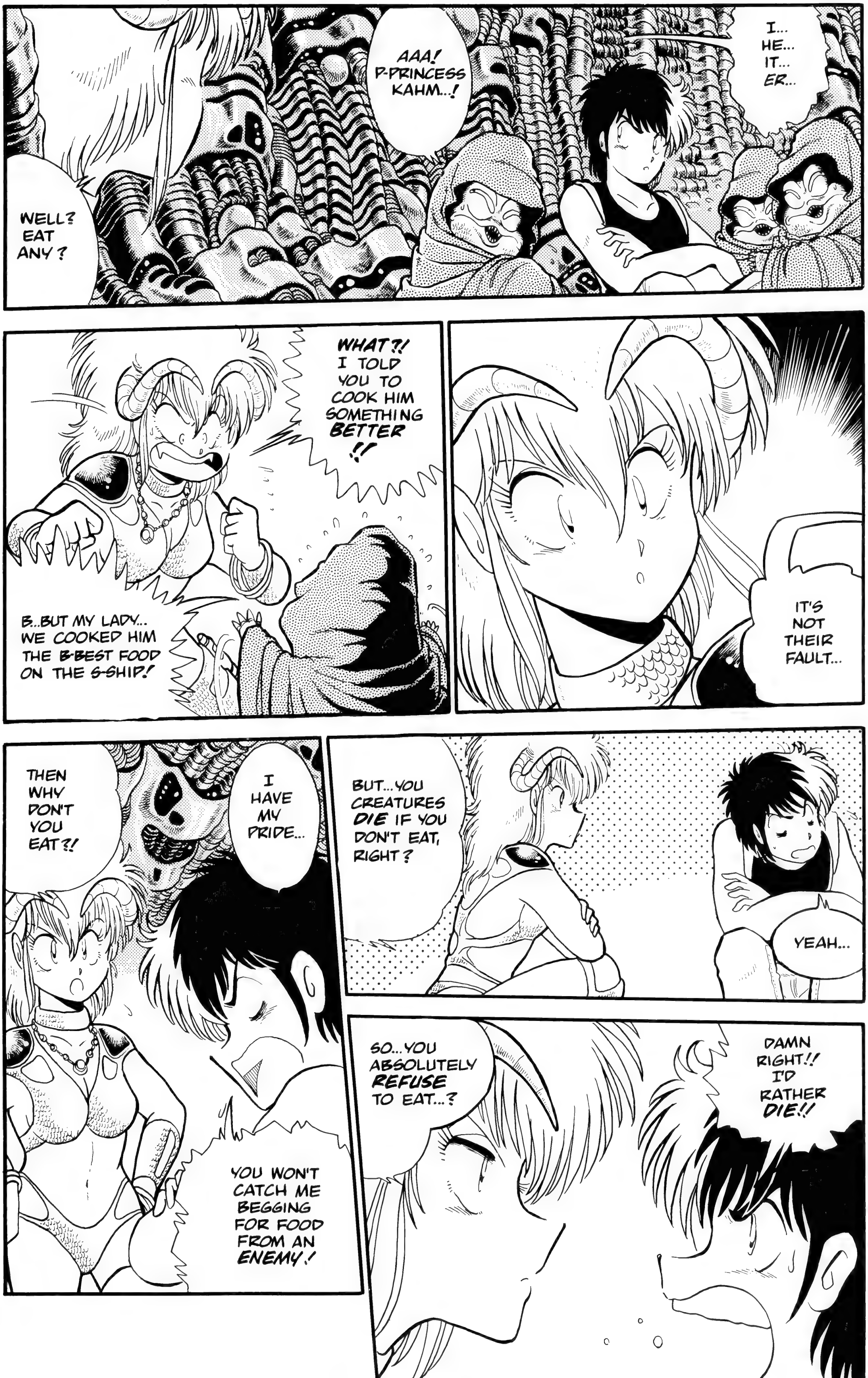

NOTHING ESCAPES THE GAZE OF THIS NEW *INFINITE EYE*.
AFTER READING BATIA'S REPORT, I HAD IT INSTALLED AS A PRECAUTION...
EXCELLENT! LAUNCH THE NEW ASSAULT BEASTS!
AND COVER THEM WITH THE ARMORED FIGHTERS-- I WANT **TOTAL** AIR SUPERIORITY!
ADMIRAL PROGRESSO, WE ARE DETECTING NEW LIFEFORM EMANATIONS APPROACHING THE SHIP...
VIZZZT
LAUNCH!!

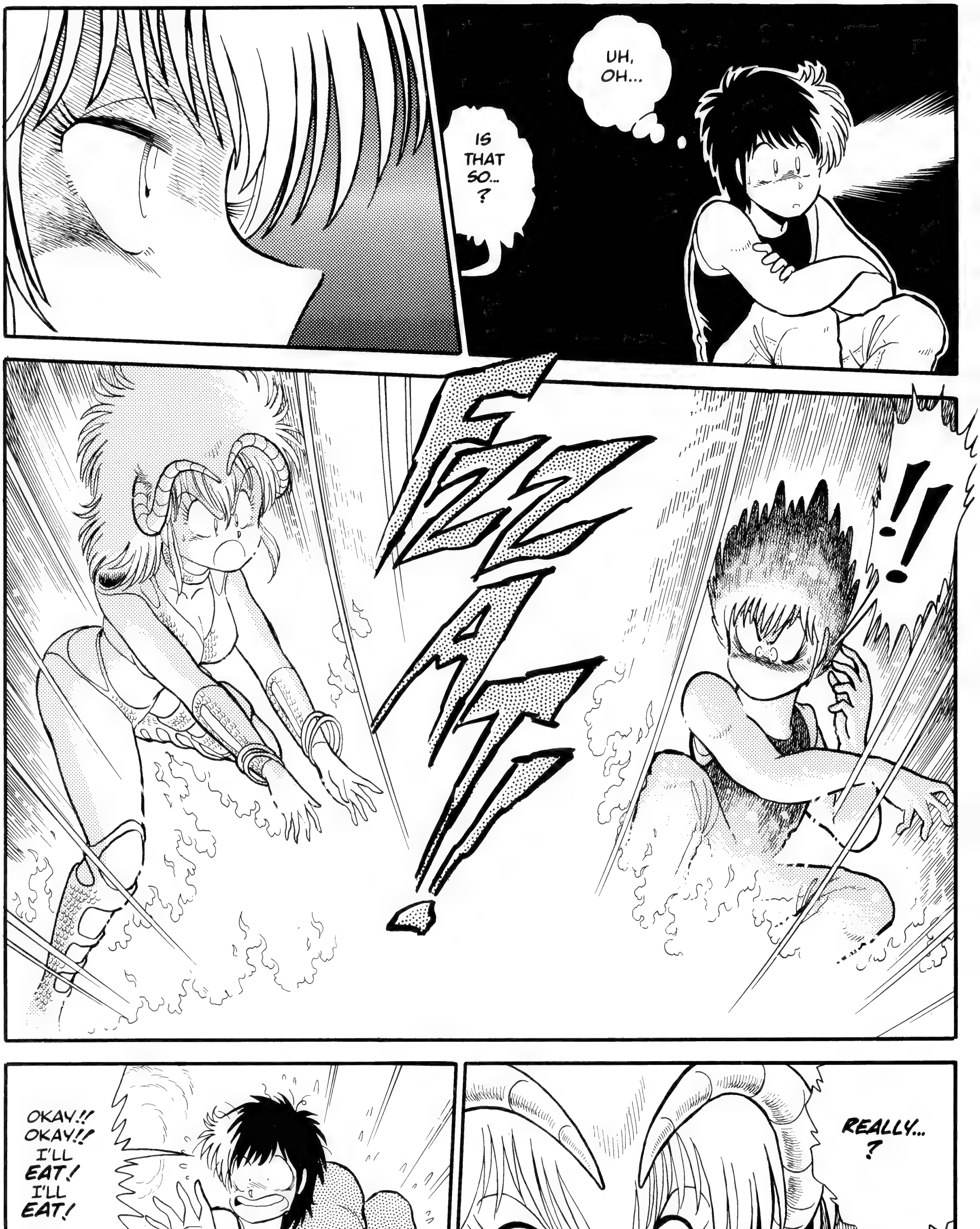


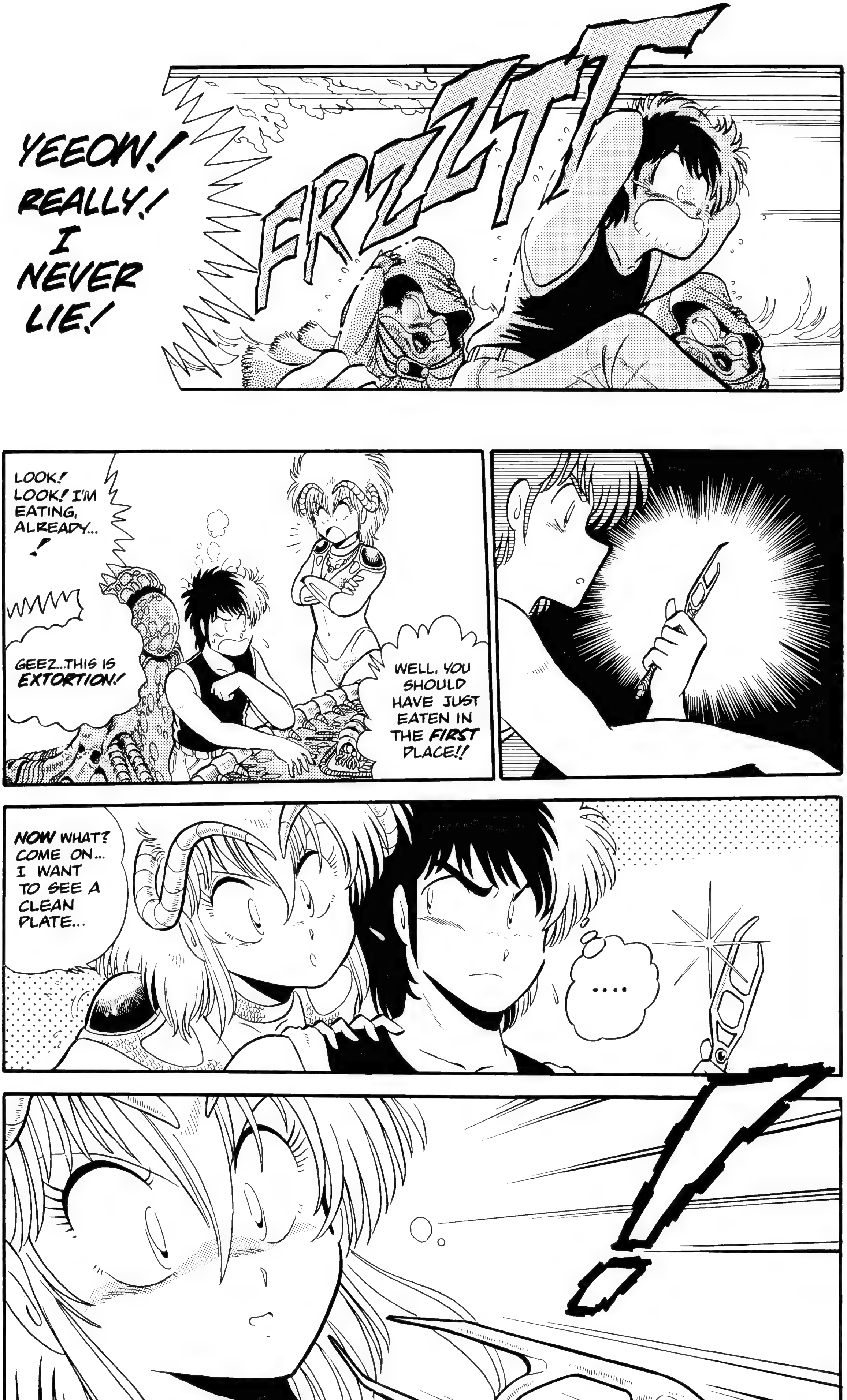

SMALL FLYING OBJECTS ARE POURING FROM THE MAIN ENEMY BATTLESHIPS!
TOO MANY FOR THE SCREENS TO COUNT!
THE OBJECTS ARE DISPERSING... THEY'RE HEADING TOWARDS MAJOR EUROPEAN CITIES!
THE MOTHER SHIPS HAVE SPLIT INTO FOUR GROUPS...
ONE GROUP HAS FOUR SHIPS, AND THE OTHERS TWO EACH.
ALL REGIONS, RED ALERT!
....
WNWNWN

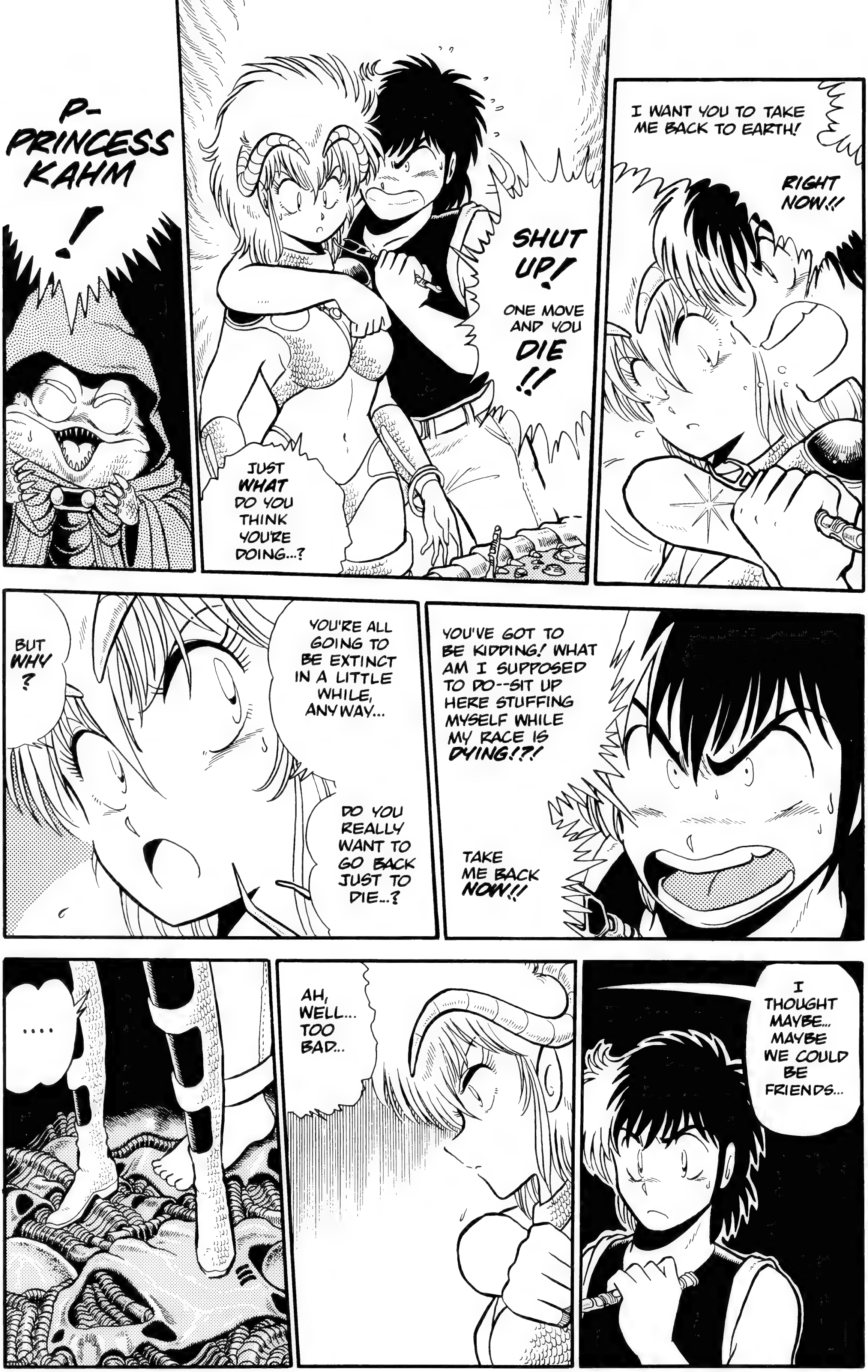


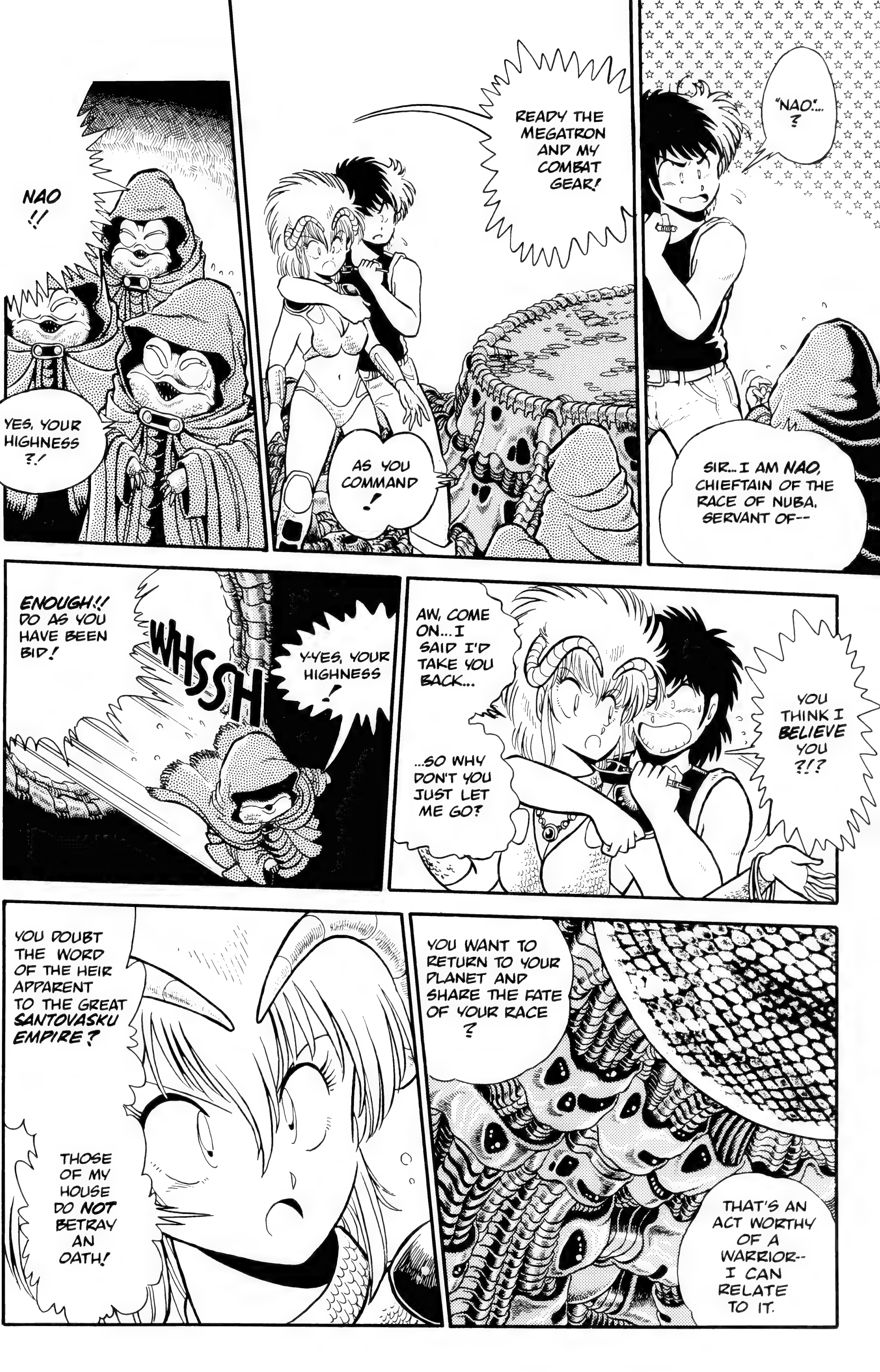

COME ON NOW... PLEASE! JUST TRY A LITTLE, *TINY* BITE!
....
YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU DON'T EAT...
...AND IF YOU DON'T EAT ***EVERYTHING***, PRINCESS KAHM WILL HAVE OUR HEADS! SHE'LL BLAME IT ON OUR COOKING!
AW, SHUT UP!
JUST BUG OFF AND LEAVE ME *ALONE*!
G'WAN! GET OUTA HERE!!

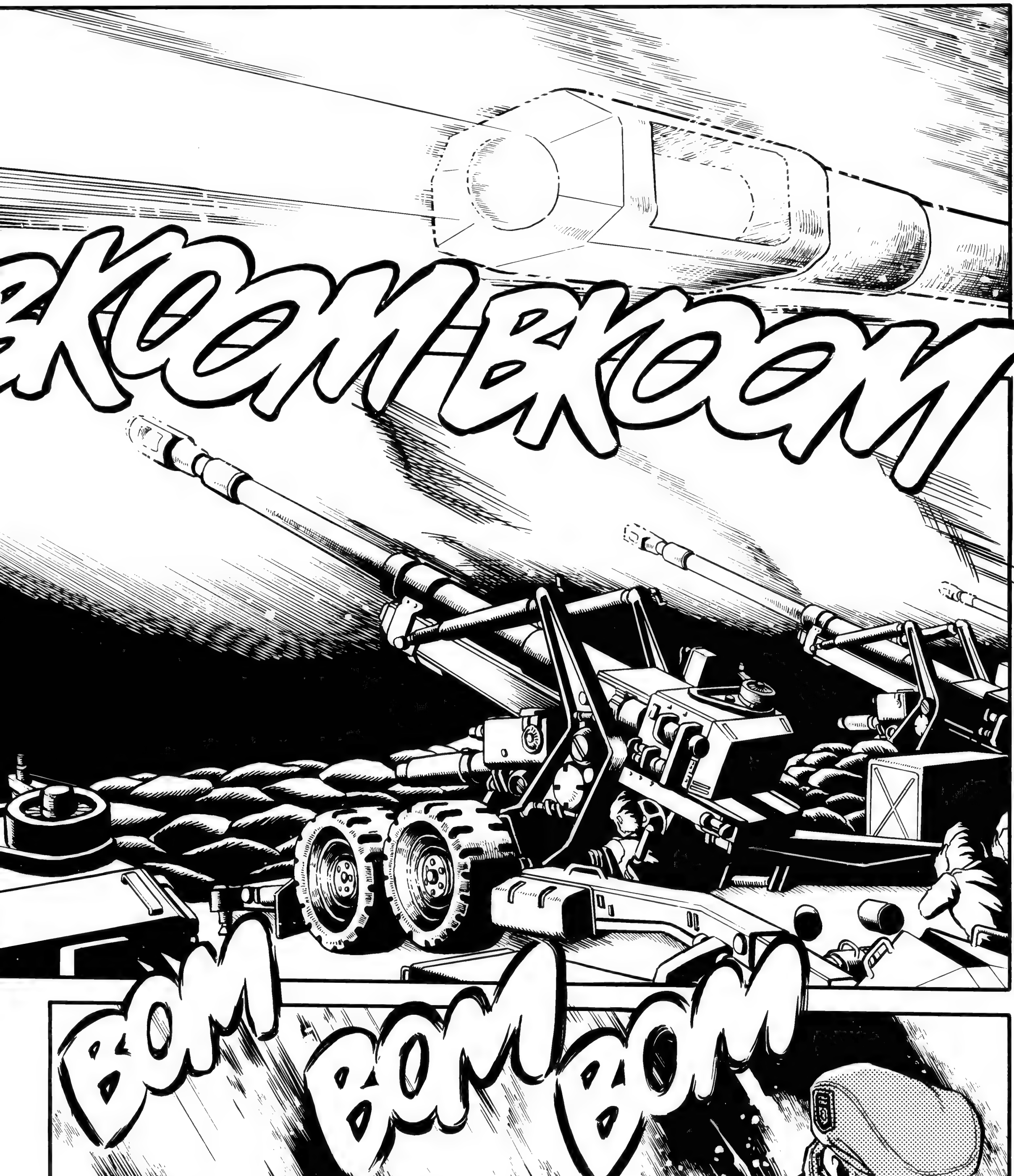

WELL? EAT ANY?
AAA! P-PRINCESS KAHM...!
I... HE... IT... ER...
WHAT?! I TOLD YOU TO COOK HIM SOMETHING BETTER!!
B..BUT MY LADY... WE COOKED HIM THE B-BEST FOOD ON THE S-SHIP!
IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT...
THEN WHY DON'T YOU EAT?!
I HAVE MY PRIDE...
YOU WON'T CATCH ME BEGGING FOR FOOD FROM AN ENEMY!
BUT...YOU CREATURES DIE IF YOU DON'T EAT, RIGHT?
YEAH...
SO...YOU ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO EAT...?
DAMN RIGHT!! I'D RATHER DIE!!

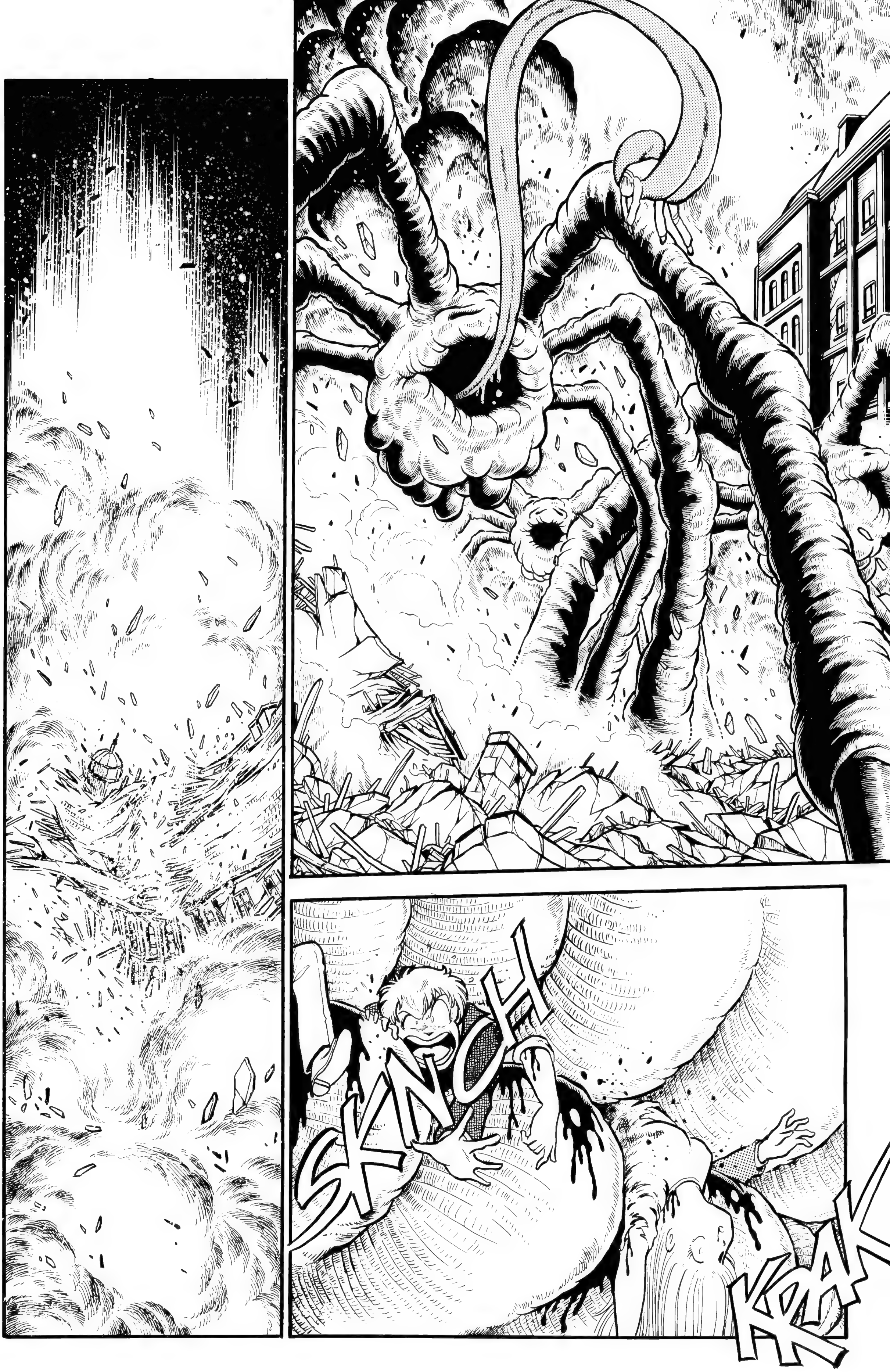

IS THAT SO... ?
UH, OH...
FZZZAAT!
!!
OKAY!! OKAY!! I'LL EAT! I'LL EAT!
I PROMISE!
REALLY... ?
HAHH
HAHH

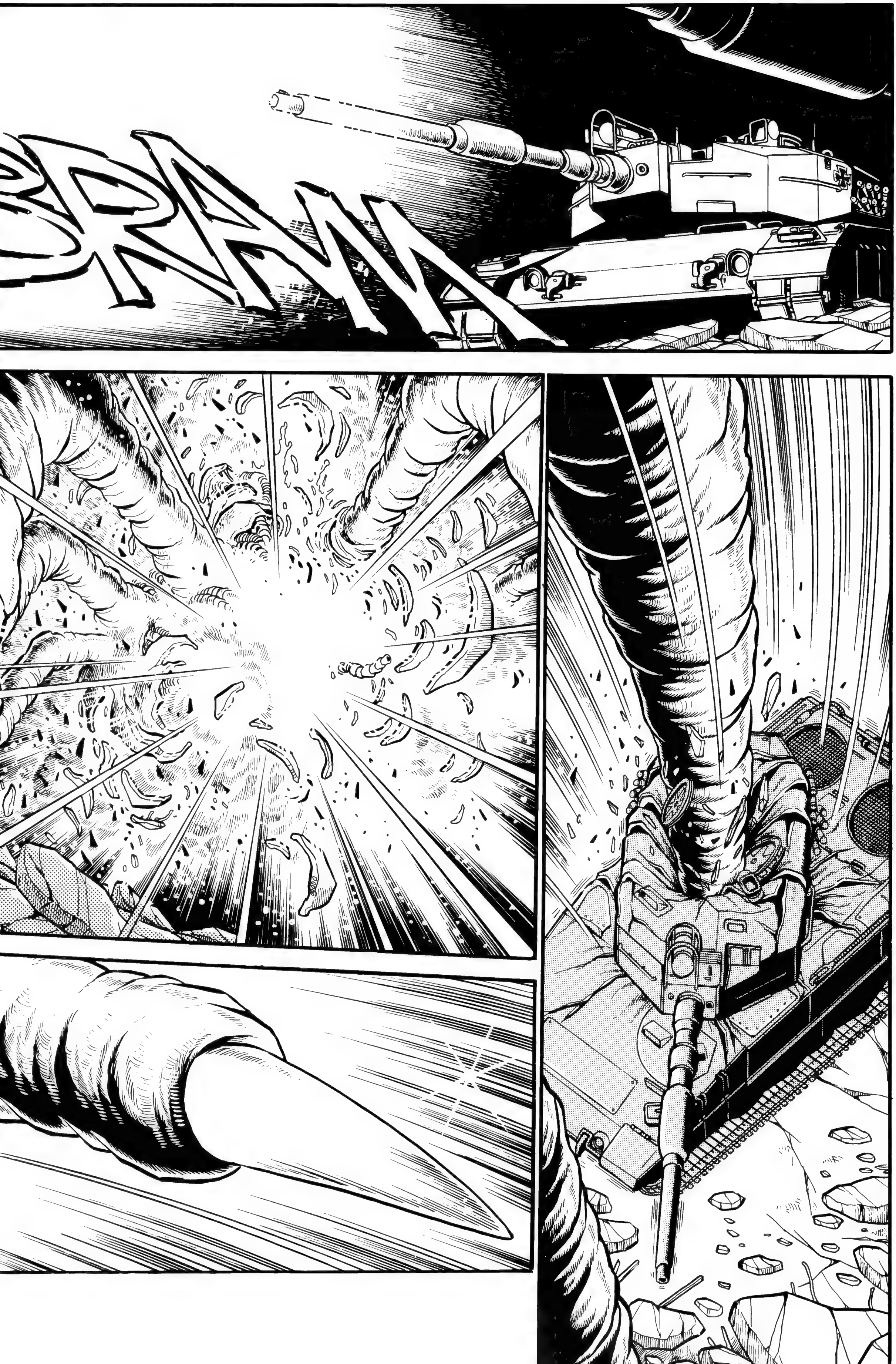

YEEOW! REALLY! I NEVER LIE!
FRZZTT
LOOK! LOOK! I'M EATING, ALREADY...!
GEEZ...THIS IS EXTORTION!
WELL, YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST EATEN IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
NOW WHAT? COME ON... I WANT TO SEE A CLEAN PLATE...
....
!

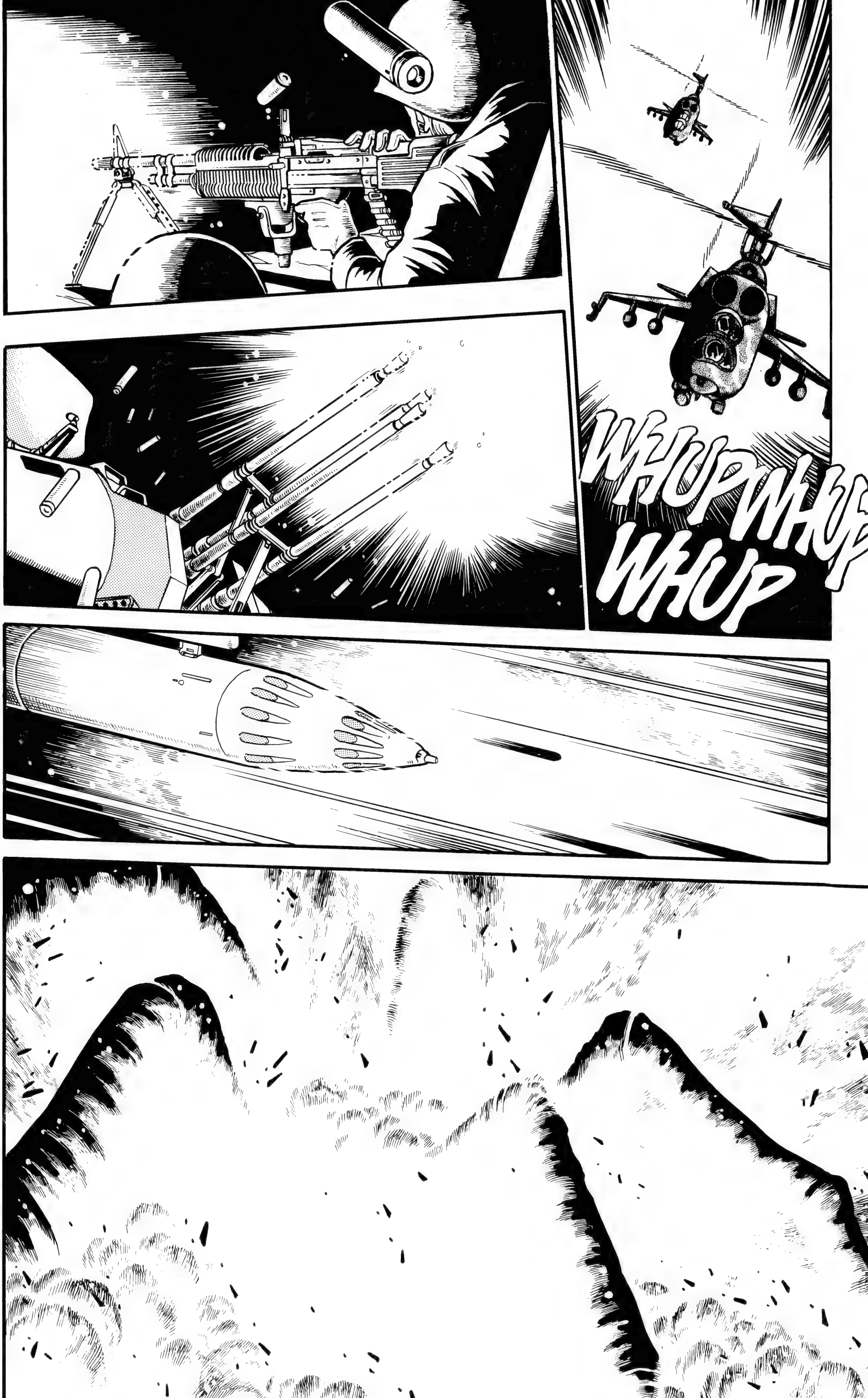

P-PRINCESS KAHM!
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...?
SHUT UP! ONE MOVE AND YOU DIE!!
I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME BACK TO EARTH!
RIGHT NOW!!
BUT WHY?
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO BE EXTINCT IN A LITTLE WHILE, ANYWAY...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO GO BACK JUST TO DIE...?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO--SIT UP HERE STUFFING MYSELF WHILE MY RACE IS DYING!?!
TAKE ME BACK NOW!!
....
AH, WELL... TOO BAD...
I THOUGHT MAYBE... MAYBE WE COULD BE FRIENDS...

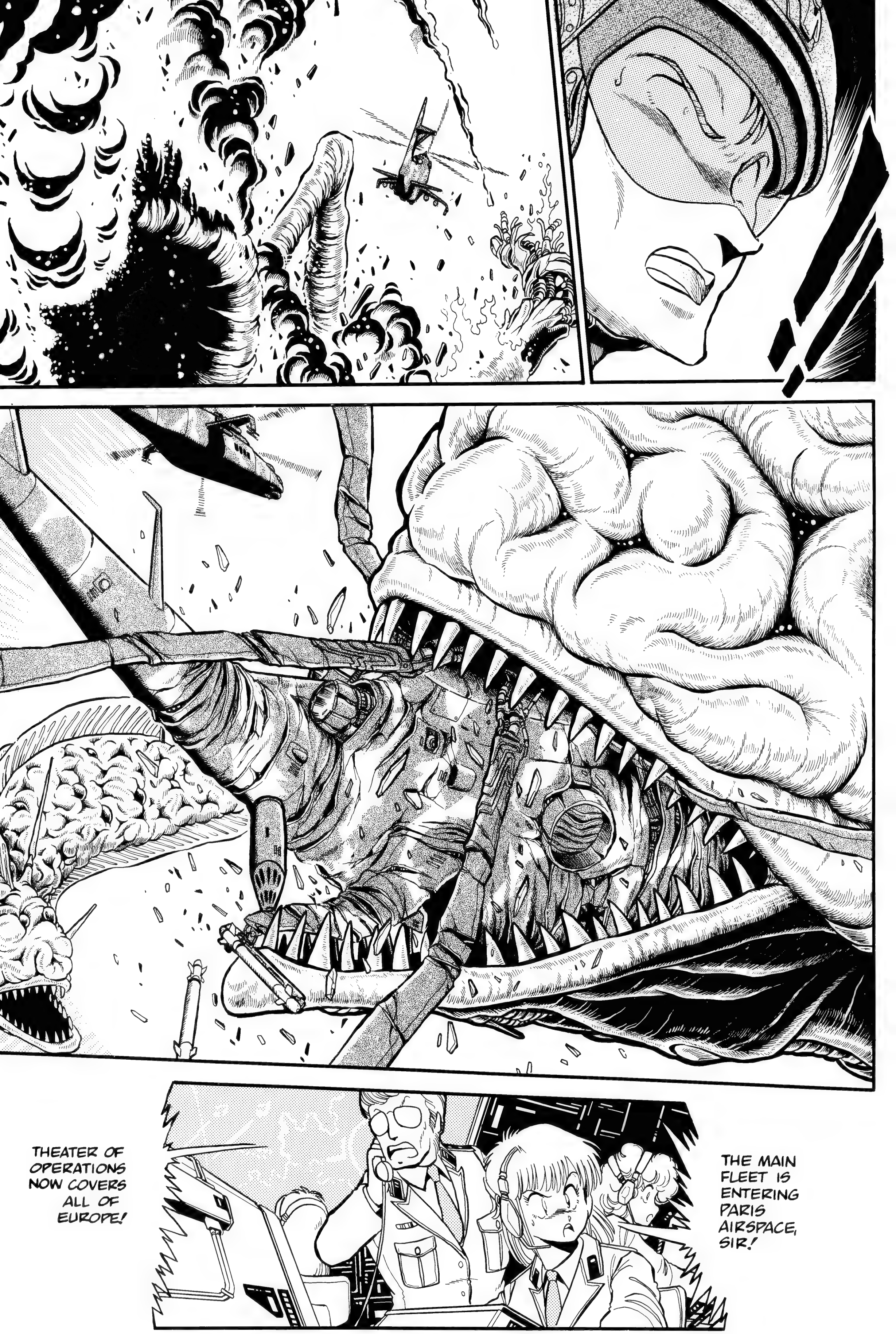

NAO!!
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS?!
READY THE MEGATRON AND MY COMBAT GEAR!
AS YOU COMMAND!
"NAO!"...?
SIR... I AM **NAO**, CHIEFTAIN OF THE RACE OF NUBA, SERVANT OF--
ENOUGH!! DO AS YOU HAVE BEEN BID!
WHSSH
Y-YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
AW, COME ON... I SAID I'D TAKE YOU BACK...
...SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET ME GO?
YOU THINK I **BELIEVE** YOU?!?
YOU DOUBT THE WORD OF THE HEIR APPARENT TO THE GREAT **SANTOVASKU EMPIRE?**
THOSE OF MY HOUSE DO **NOT** BETRAY AN OATH!
YOU WANT TO RETURN TO YOUR PLANET AND SHARE THE FATE OF YOUR RACE?
THAT'S AN ACT WORTHY OF A WARRIOR-- I CAN RELATE TO IT.

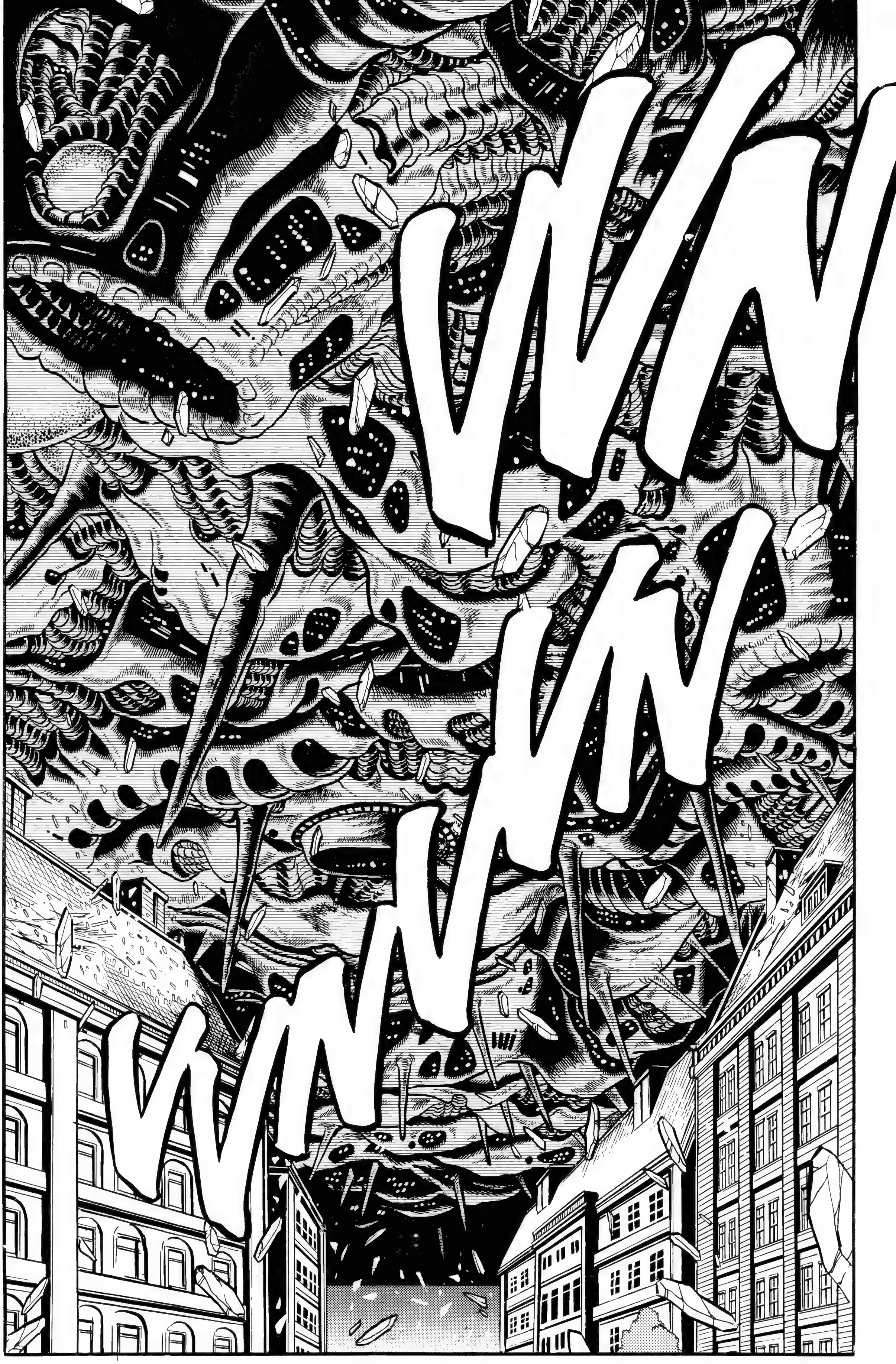

KOOM BKOOM
BOM
BOM
BOM

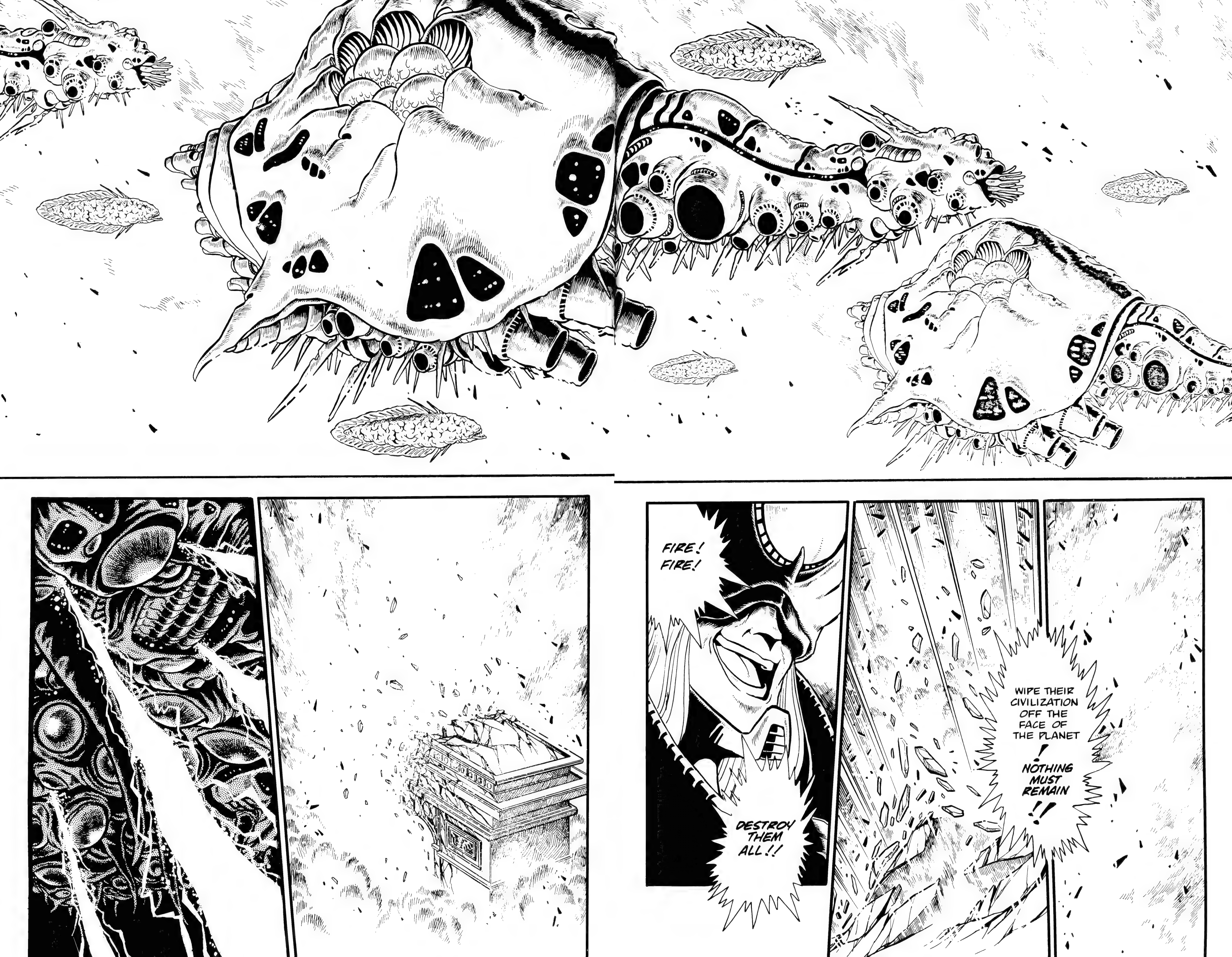

SKNCH
KRAK

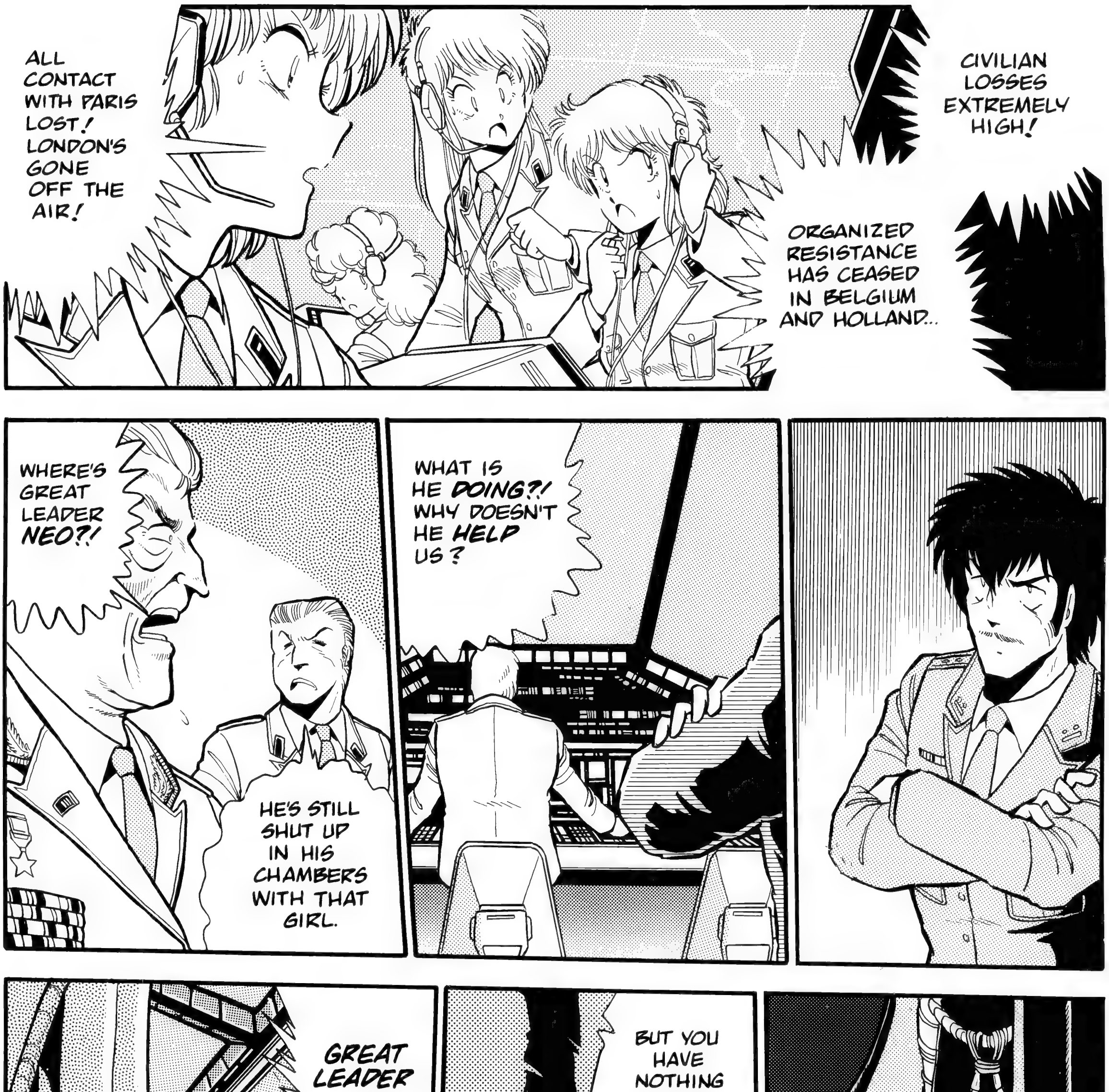

BRAM

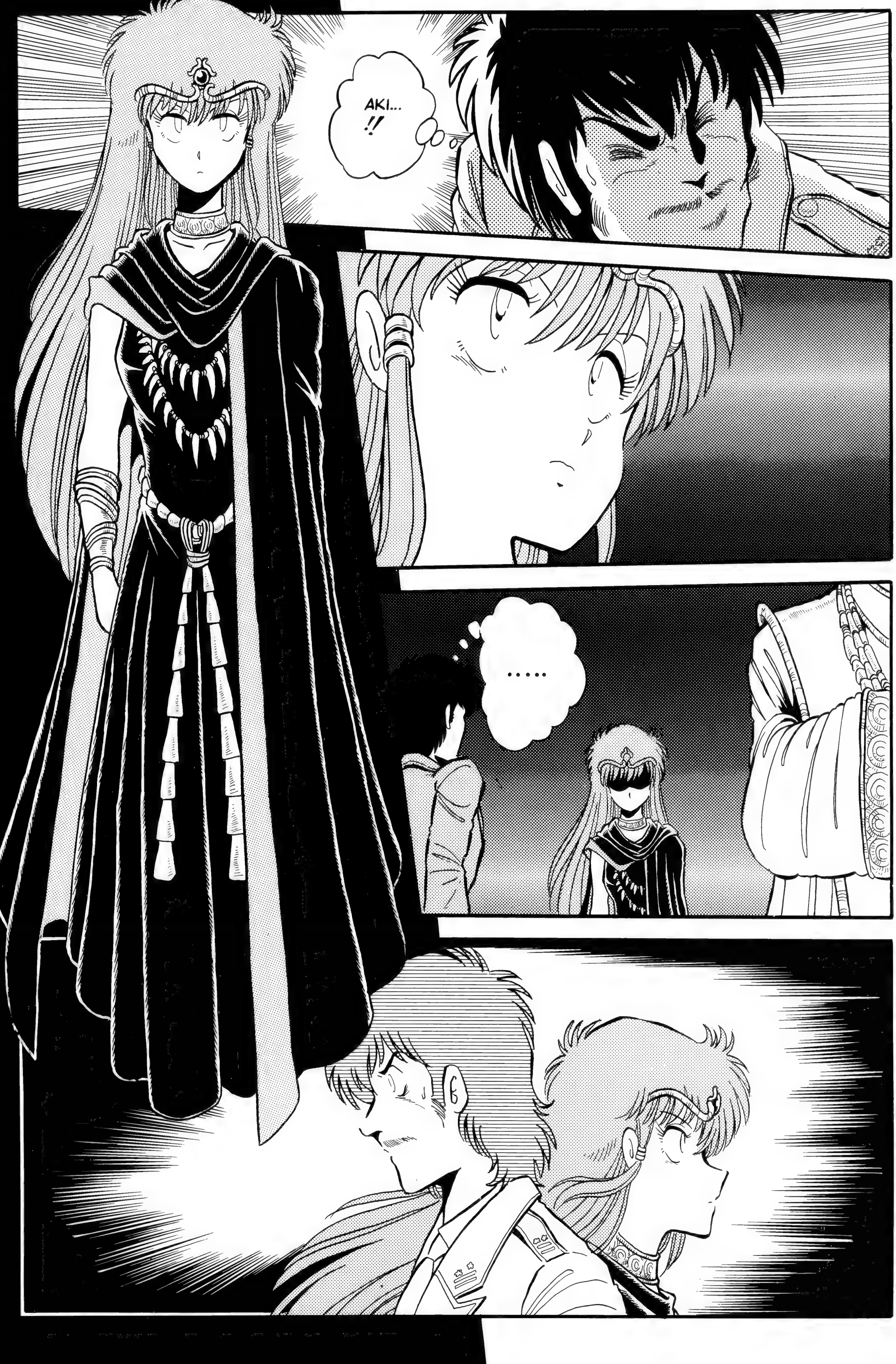

WHUP WHUP
WHUP

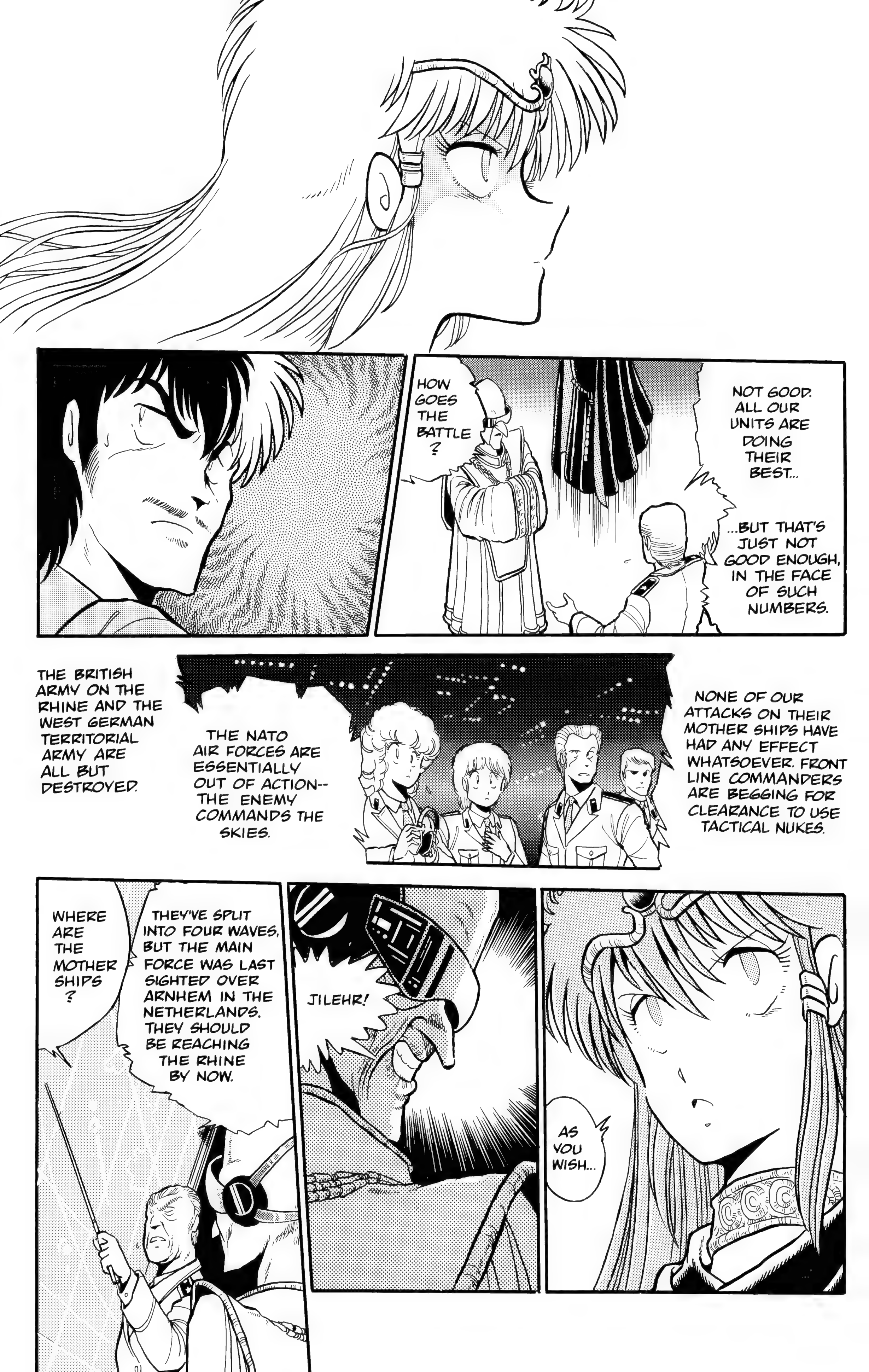

THEATER OF OPERATIONS NOW COVERS ALL OF EUROPE!
THE MAIN FLEET IS ENTERING PARIS AIRSPACE, SIR!

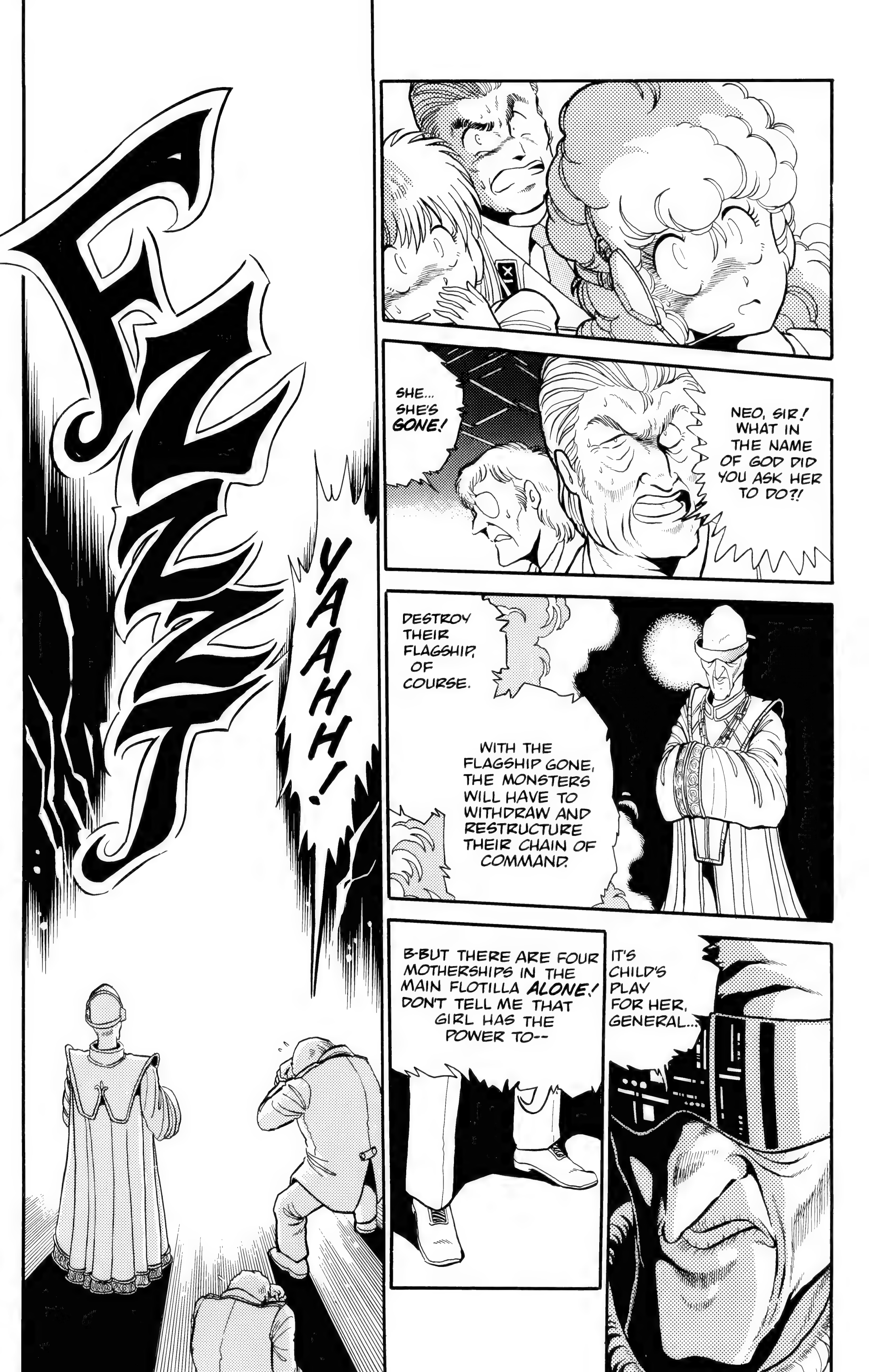


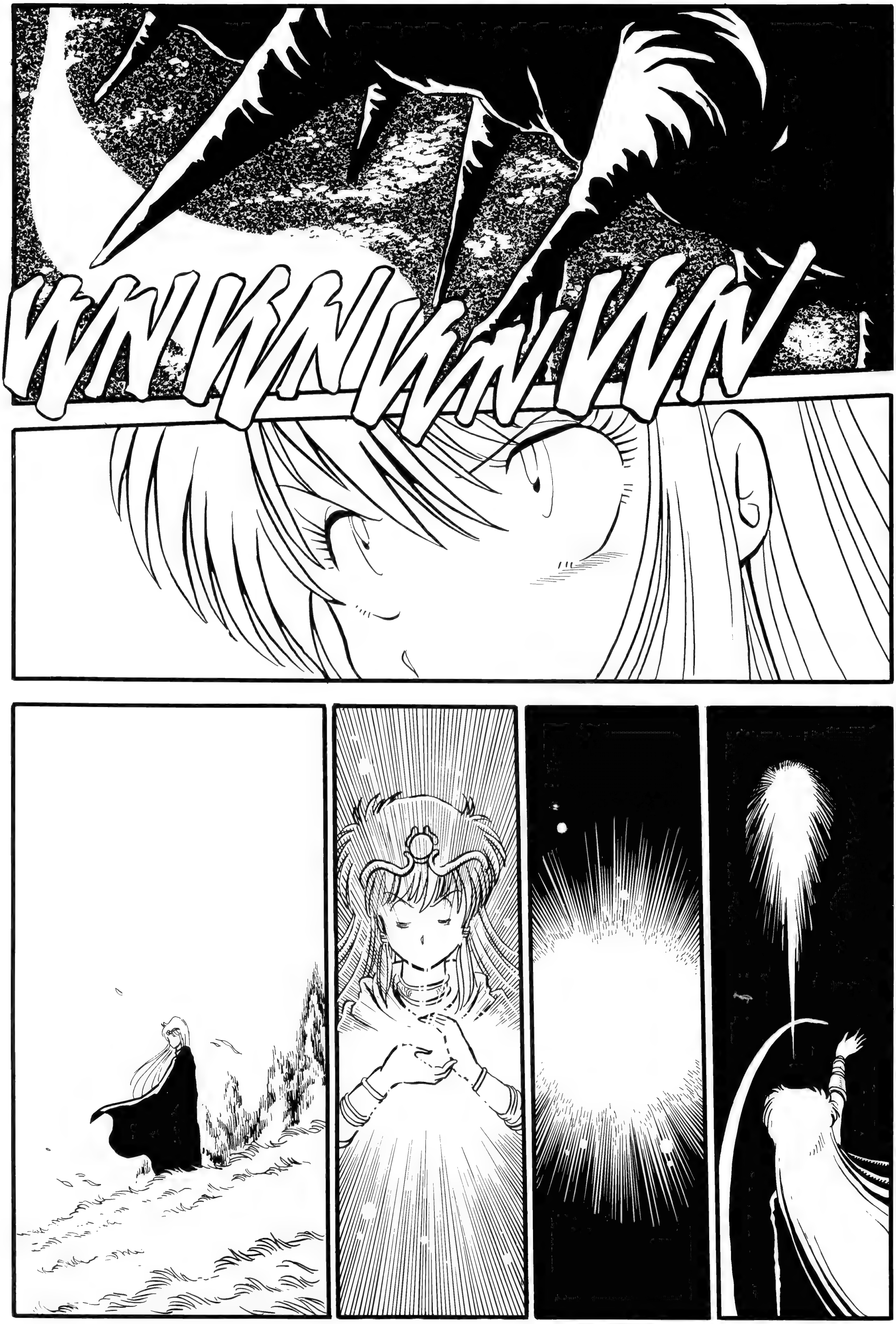

FIRE! FIRE!
DESTROY THEM ALL!!
WIPE THEIR CIVILIZATION OFF THE FACE OF THE PLANET! NOTHING MUST REMAIN!!

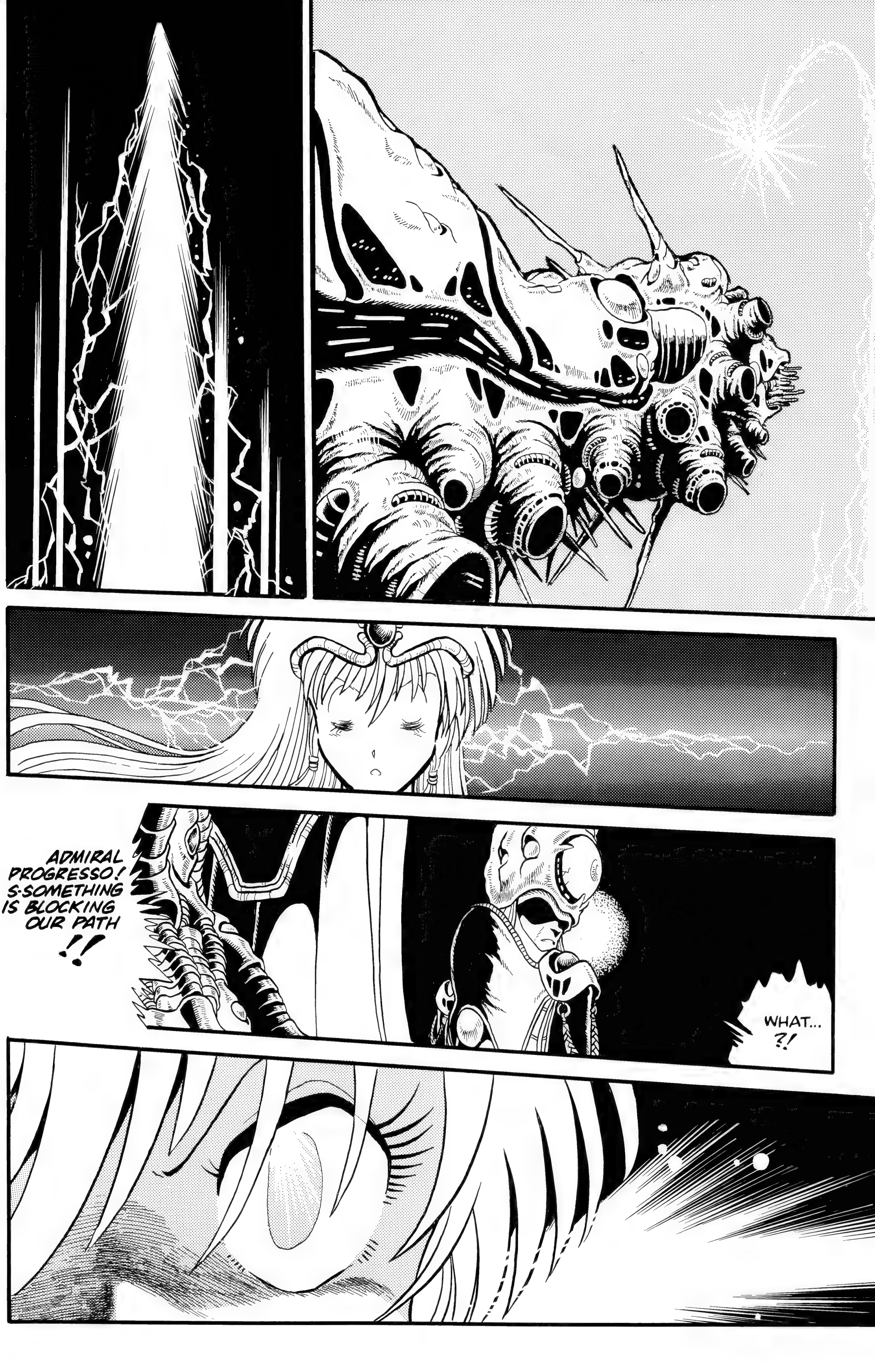

ALL CONTACT WITH PARIS LOST! LONDON'S GONE OFF THE AIR!
CIVILIAN LOSSES EXTREMELY HIGH!
ORGANIZED RESISTANCE HAS CEASED IN BELGIUM AND HOLLAND...
WHERE'S GREAT LEADER NEO?!
HE'S STILL SHUT UP IN HIS CHAMBERS WITH THAT GIRL.
WHAT IS HE DOING?! WHY DOESN'T HE HELP US?
GREAT LEADER!
I APOLOGIZE FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING, GENERAL BROTNIKOV...
BUT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR... NOT ANYMORE.
JILEHR...?
I AM HERE.

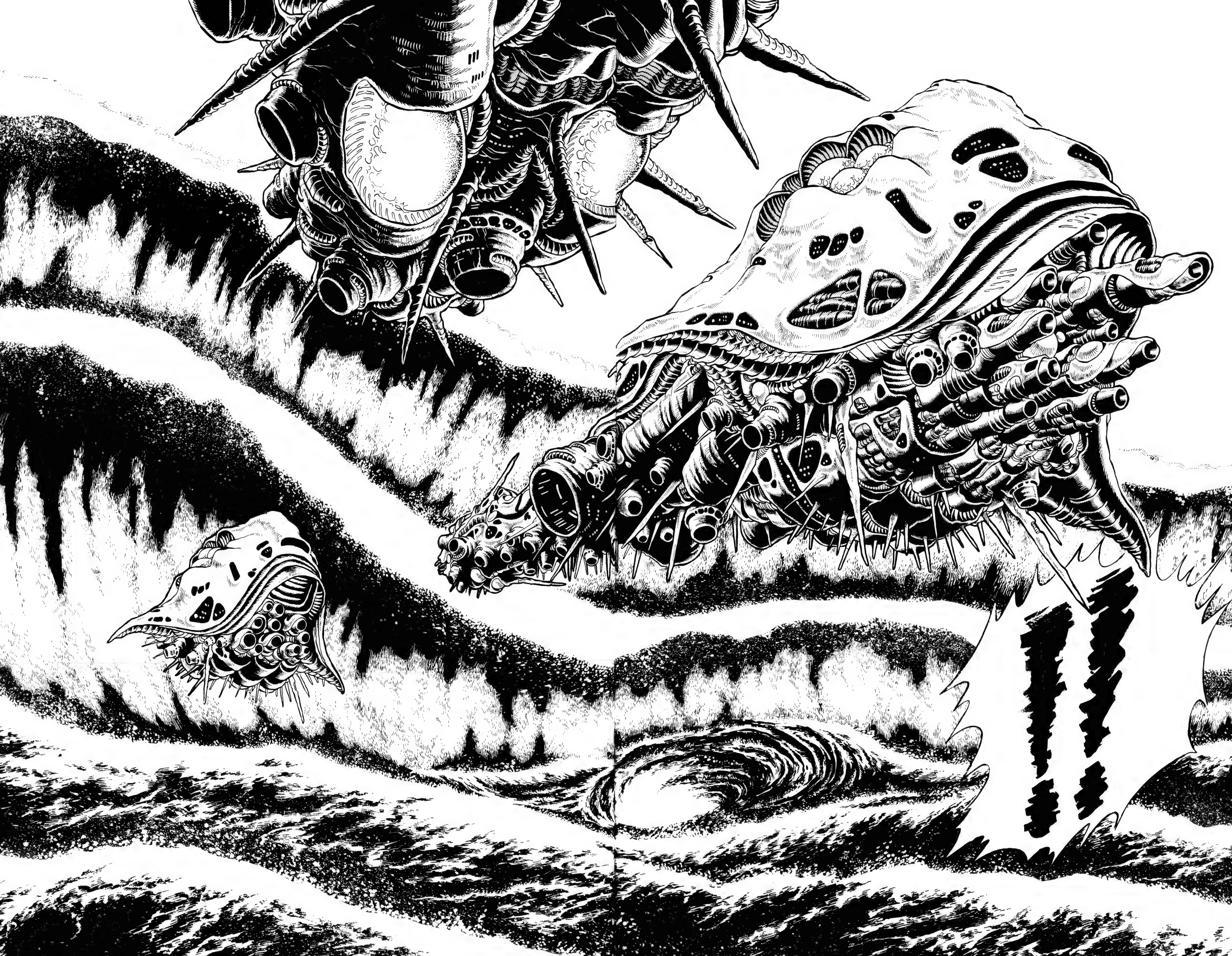

AKI... !!
......

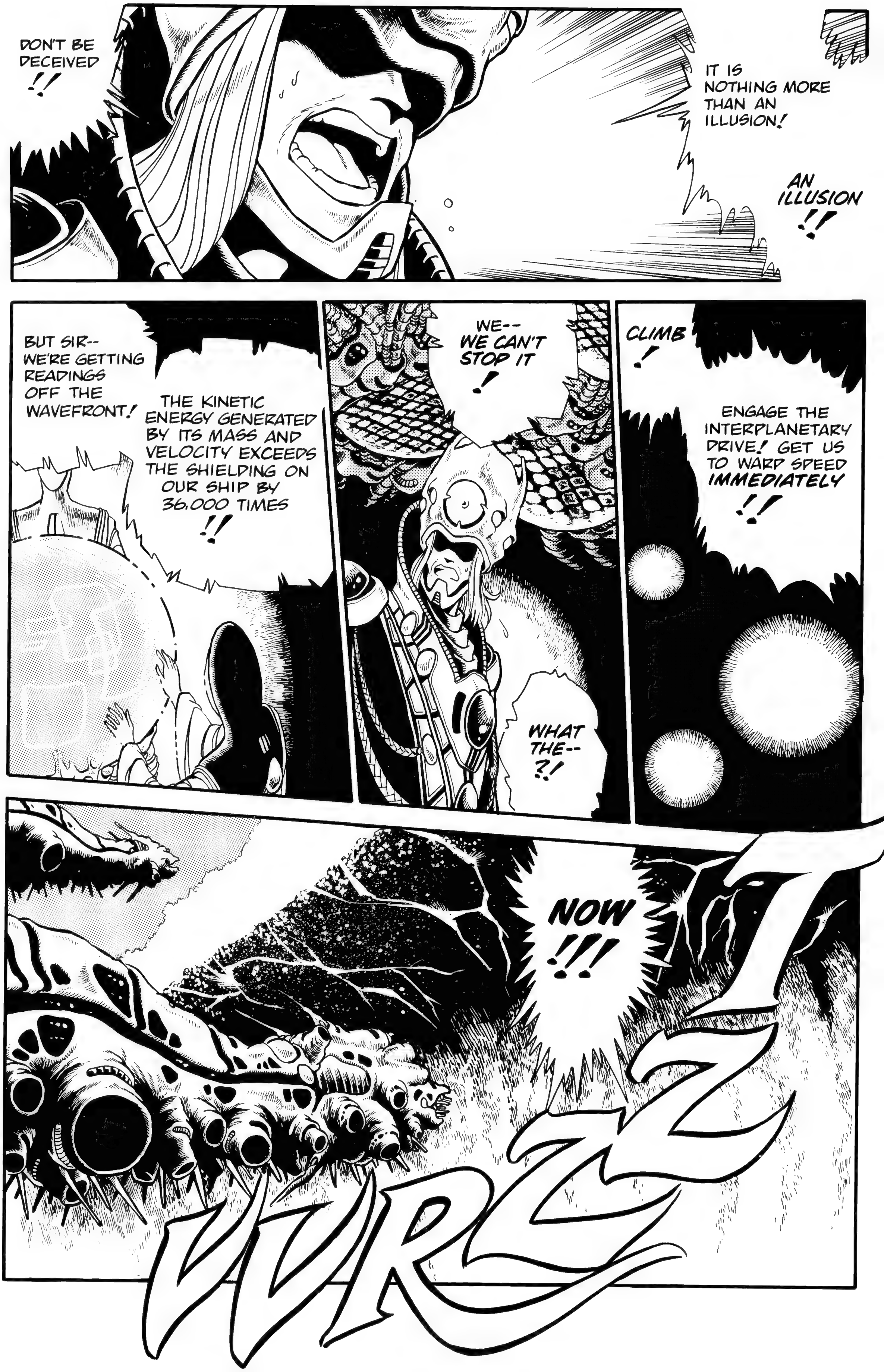

HOW GOES THE BATTLE?
NOT GOOD. ALL OUR UNITS ARE DOING THEIR BEST...
...BUT THAT'S JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH, IN THE FACE OF SUCH NUMBERS.
THE BRITISH ARMY ON THE RHINE AND THE WEST GERMAN TERRITORIAL ARMY ARE ALL BUT DESTROYED.
THE NATO AIR FORCES ARE ESSENTIALLY OUT OF ACTION-- THE ENEMY COMMANDS THE SKIES.
NONE OF OUR ATTACKS ON THEIR MOTHER SHIPS HAVE HAD ANY EFFECT WHATSOEVER. FRONT LINE COMMANDERS ARE BEGGING FOR CLEARANCE TO USE TACTICAL NUKES.
WHERE ARE THE MOTHER SHIPS?
THEY'VE SPLIT INTO FOUR WAVES, BUT THE MAIN FORCE WAS LAST SIGHTED OVER ARNHEM IN THE NETHERLANDS. THEY SHOULD BE REACHING THE RHINE BY NOW.
JILEHR!
AS YOU WISH...

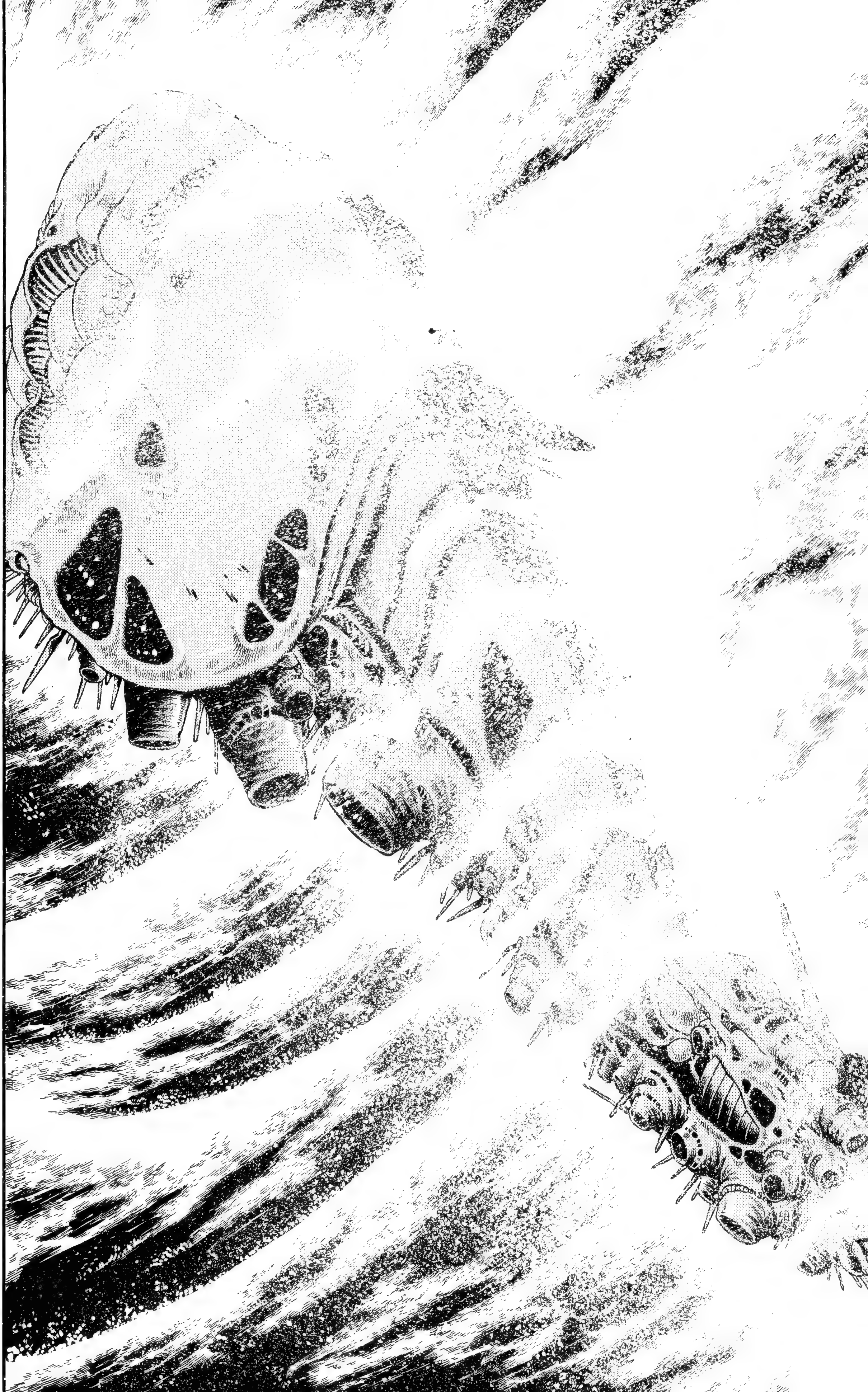

FZZZT
YAAHH!
SHE... SHE'S **GONE!**
NEO, SIR! WHAT IN THE NAME OF GOD DID YOU ASK HER TO DO?!
DESTROY THEIR FLAGSHIP, OF COURSE.
WITH THE FLAGSHIP GONE, THE MONSTERS WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW AND RESTRUCTURE THEIR CHAIN OF COMMAND.
B-BUT THERE ARE FOUR MOTHERSHIPS IN THE MAIN FLOTILLA **ALONE!** DON'T TELL ME THAT GIRL HAS THE POWER TO--
IT'S CHILD'S PLAY FOR HER, GENERAL...

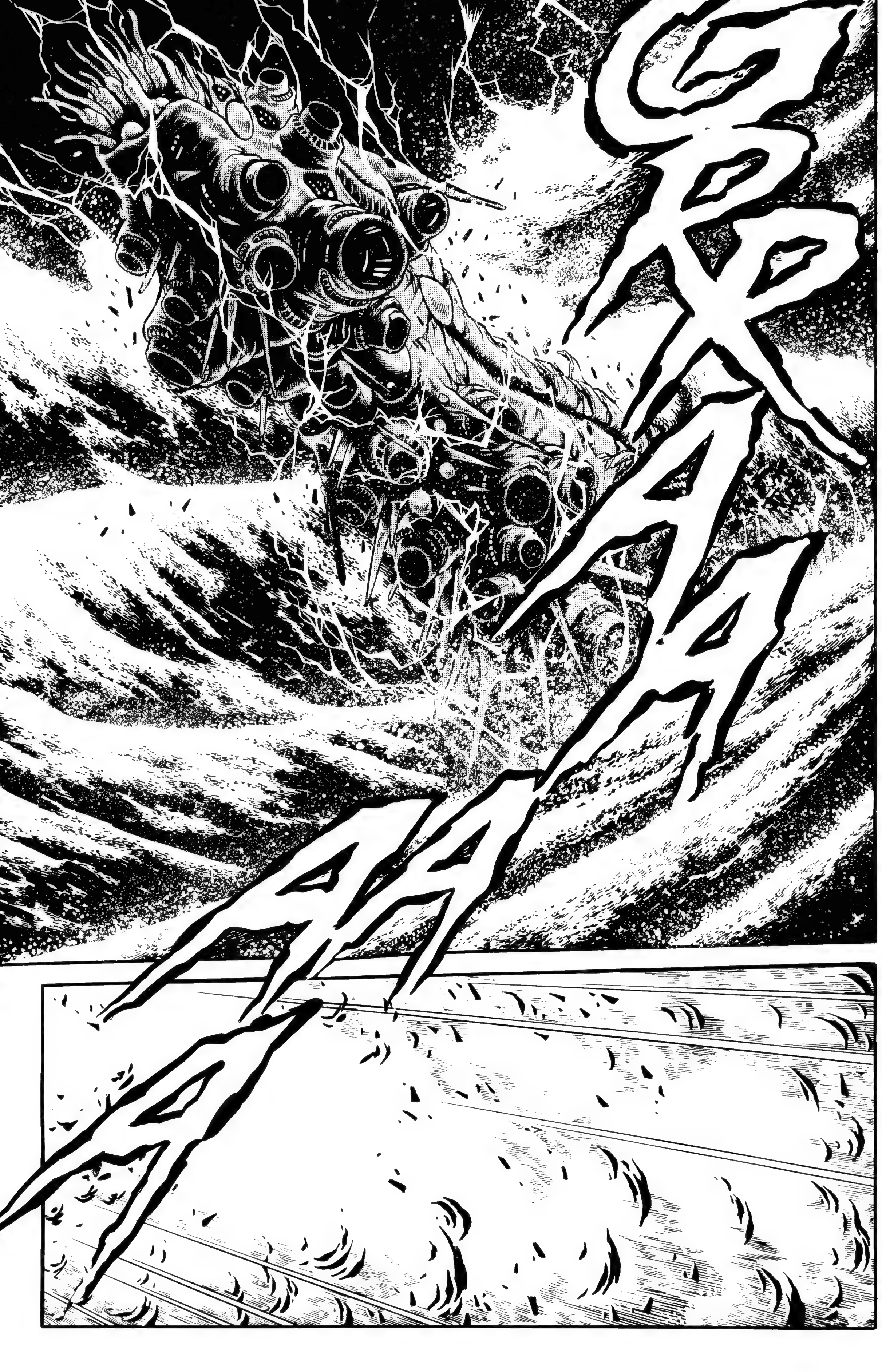

WNWNWNWNWN

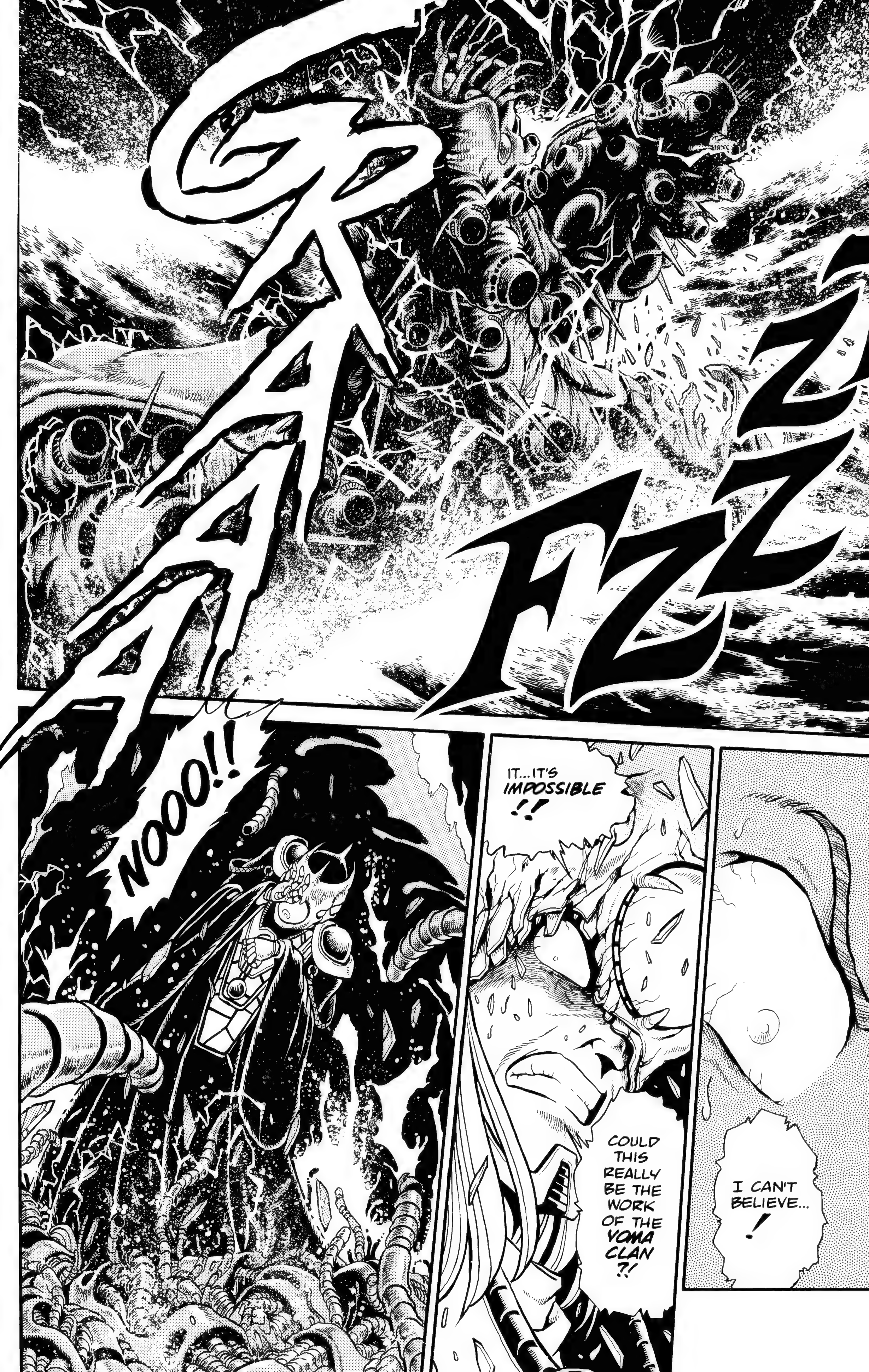

ADMIRAL PROGRESSO! S-SOMETHING IS BLOCKING OUR PATH!!
WHAT...?!

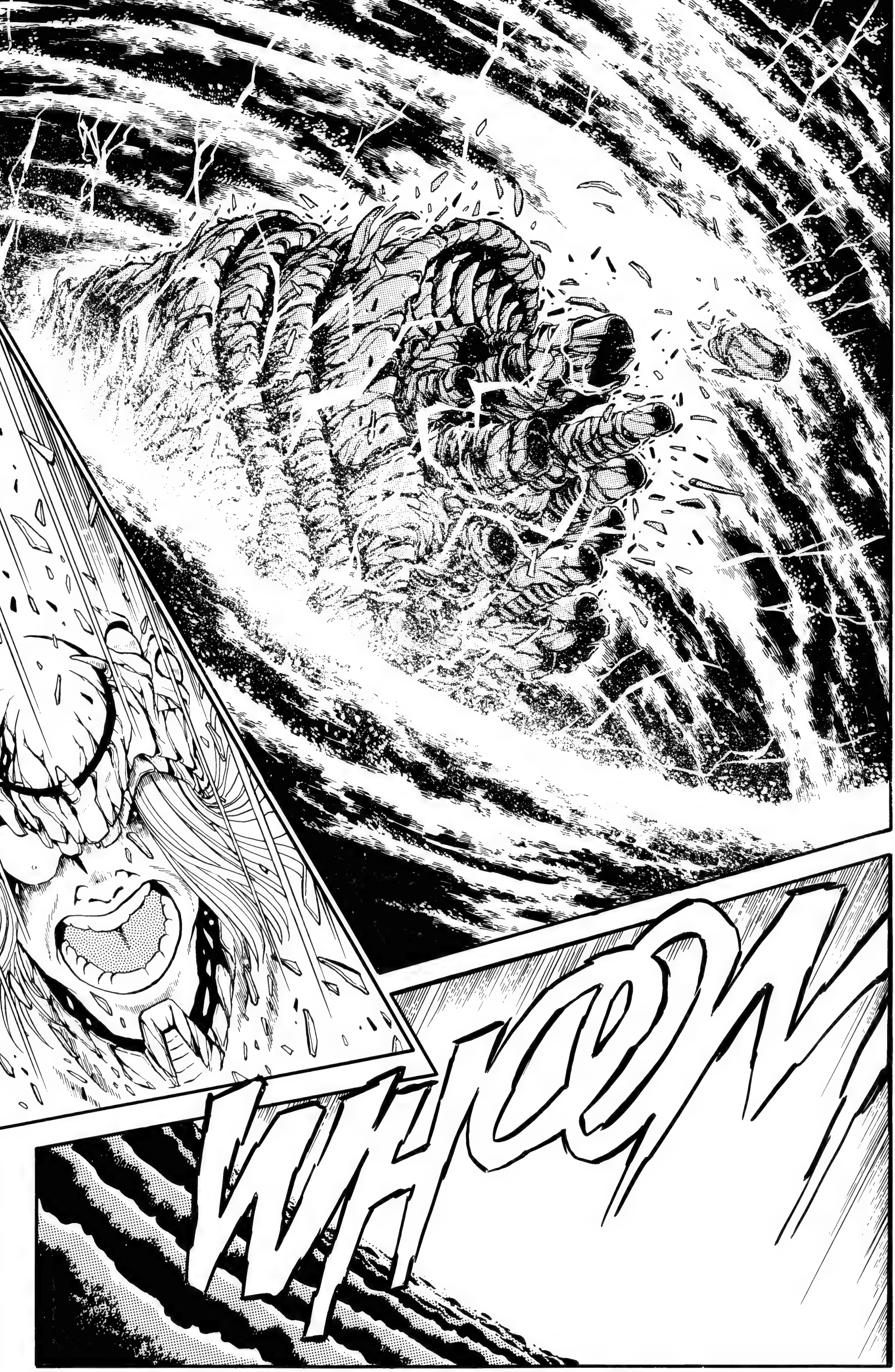


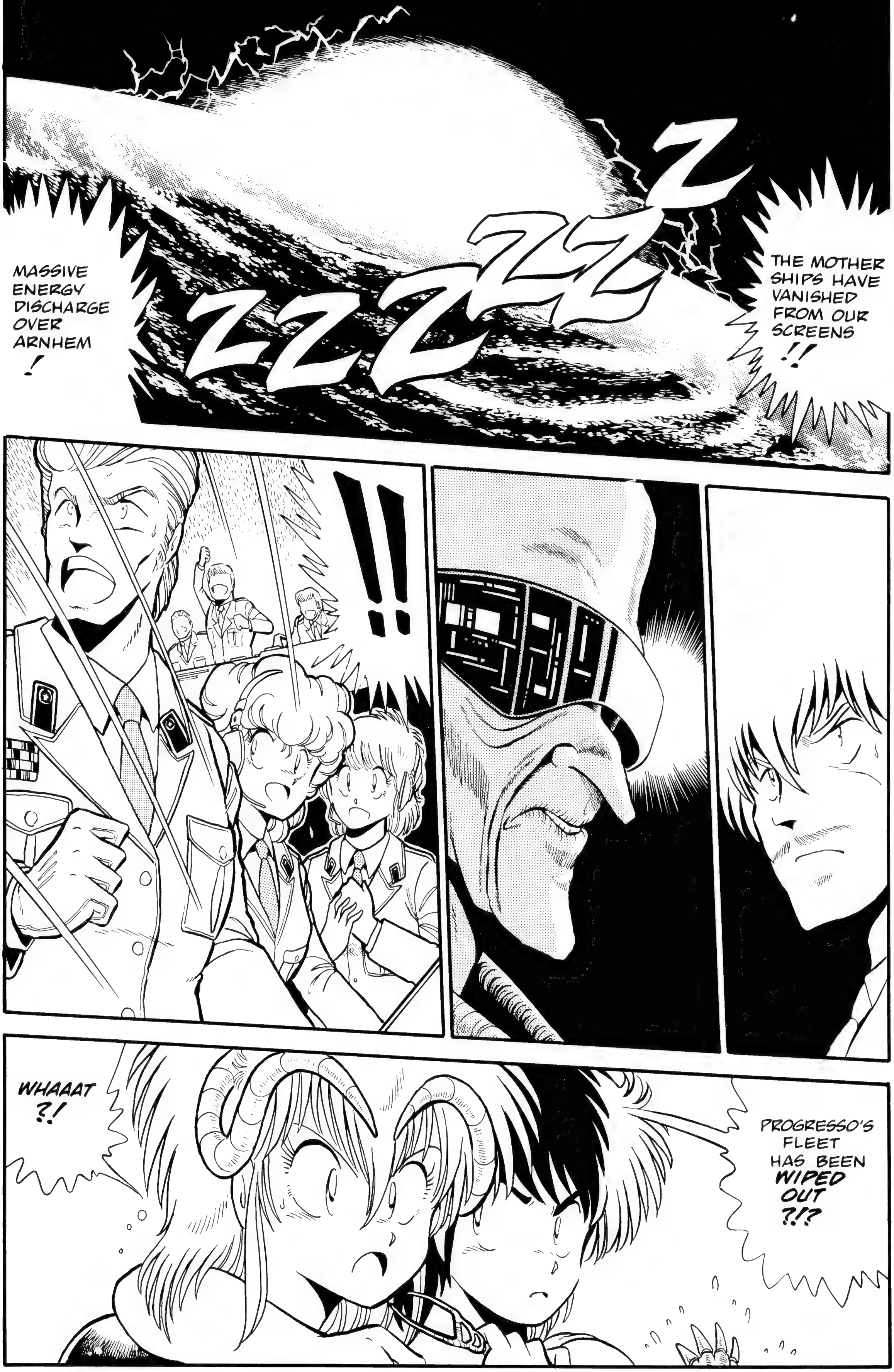

DON'T BE DECEIVED!!
IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ILLUSION!
AN ILLUSION!!
BUT SIR-- WE'RE GETTING READINGS OFF THE WAVEFRONT!
THE KINETIC ENERGY GENERATED BY ITS MASS AND VELOCITY EXCEEDS THE SHIELDING ON OUR SHIP BY 36,000 TIMES!!
WE-- WE CAN'T STOP IT!
WHAT THE--?!
CLIMB!
ENGAGE THE INTERPLANETARY DRIVE! GET US TO WARP SPEED IMMEDIATELY!!
NOW!!!
VVRZZZ

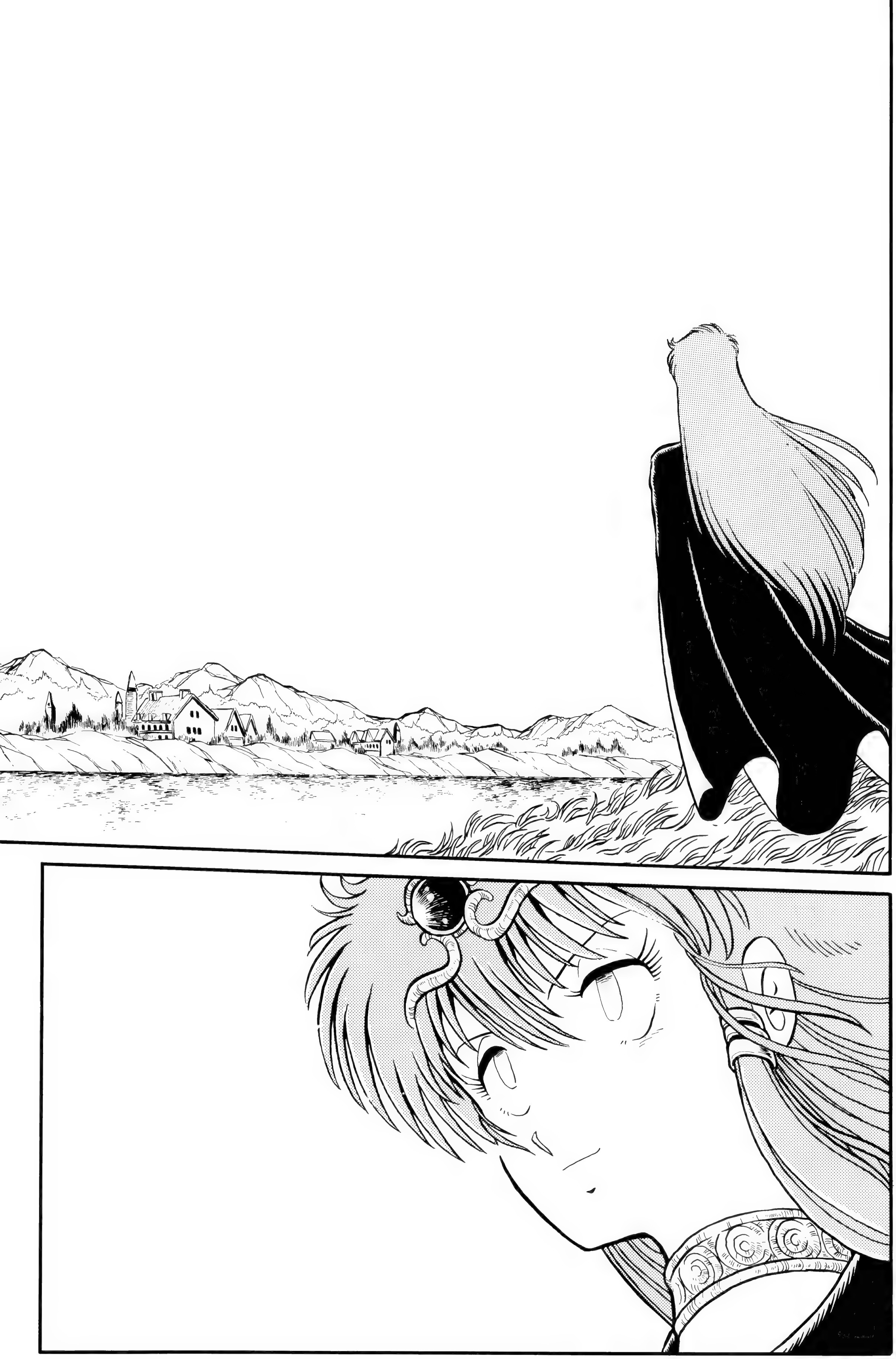



GRAAAAA

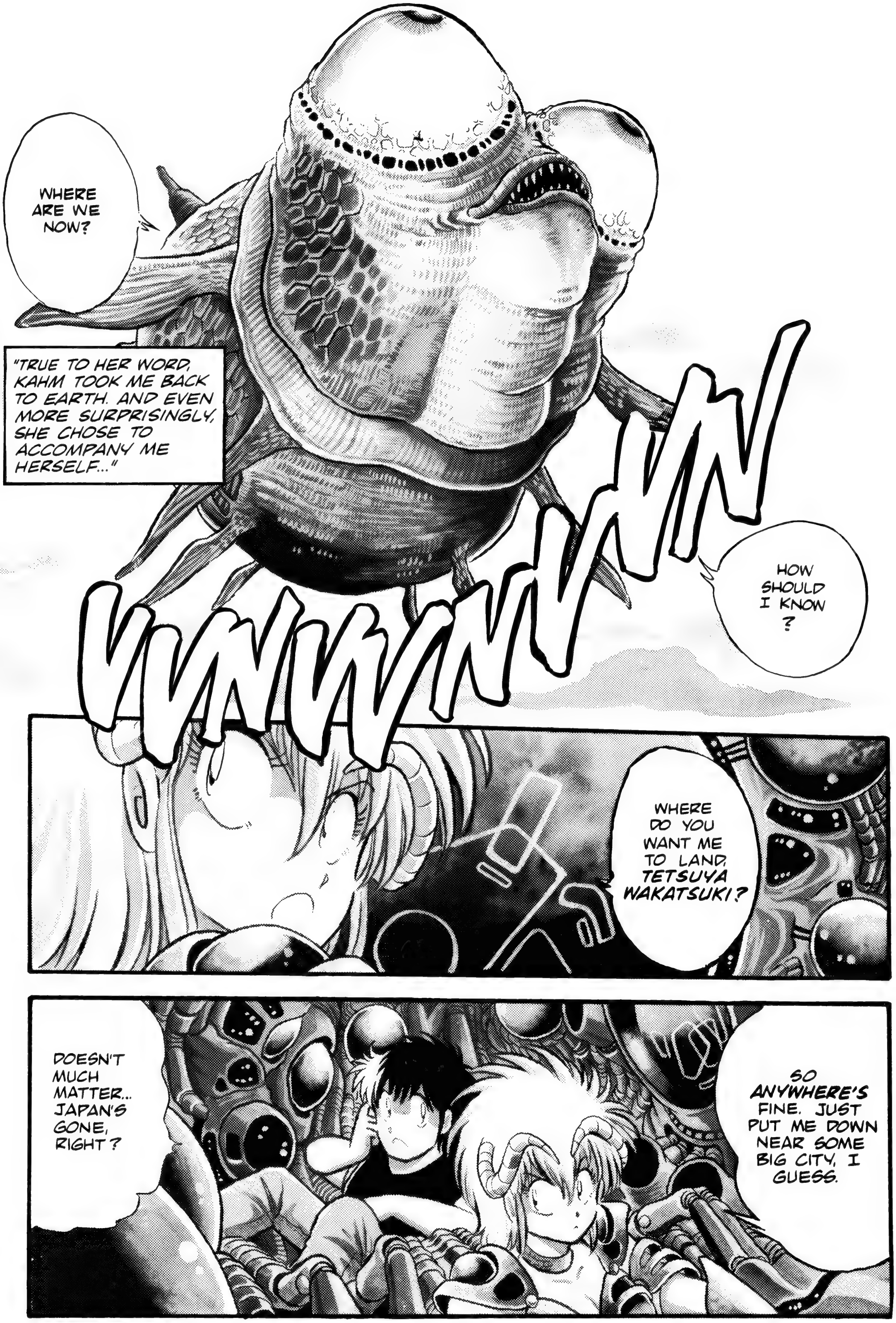

GRAAA
FZZZ
NOOO!!
IT...IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE* !!
COULD THIS REALLY BE THE WORK OF THE *YOMA CLAN* ?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE... !


WHOOM


MASSIVE ENERGY DISCHARGE OVER ARNHEM!
ZZZZZZZ
THE MOTHER SHIPS HAVE VANISHED FROM OUR SCREENS!!
!!
WHAAAT?!
PROGRESSO'S FLEET HAS BEEN *WIPED OUT*?!?



CHAPTER 7


WHERE ARE WE NOW?
"TRUE TO HER WORD, KAHM TOOK ME BACK TO EARTH. AND EVEN MORE SURPRISINGLY, SHE CHOSE TO ACCOMPANY ME HERSELF..."
VVNNVVN
HOW SHOULD I KNOW ?
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO LAND, ***TETSUYA WAKATSUKI?***
DOESN'T MUCH MATTER... JAPAN'S GONE, RIGHT?
SO ***ANYWHERE'S*** FINE. JUST PUT ME DOWN NEAR SOME BIG CITY, I GUESS.

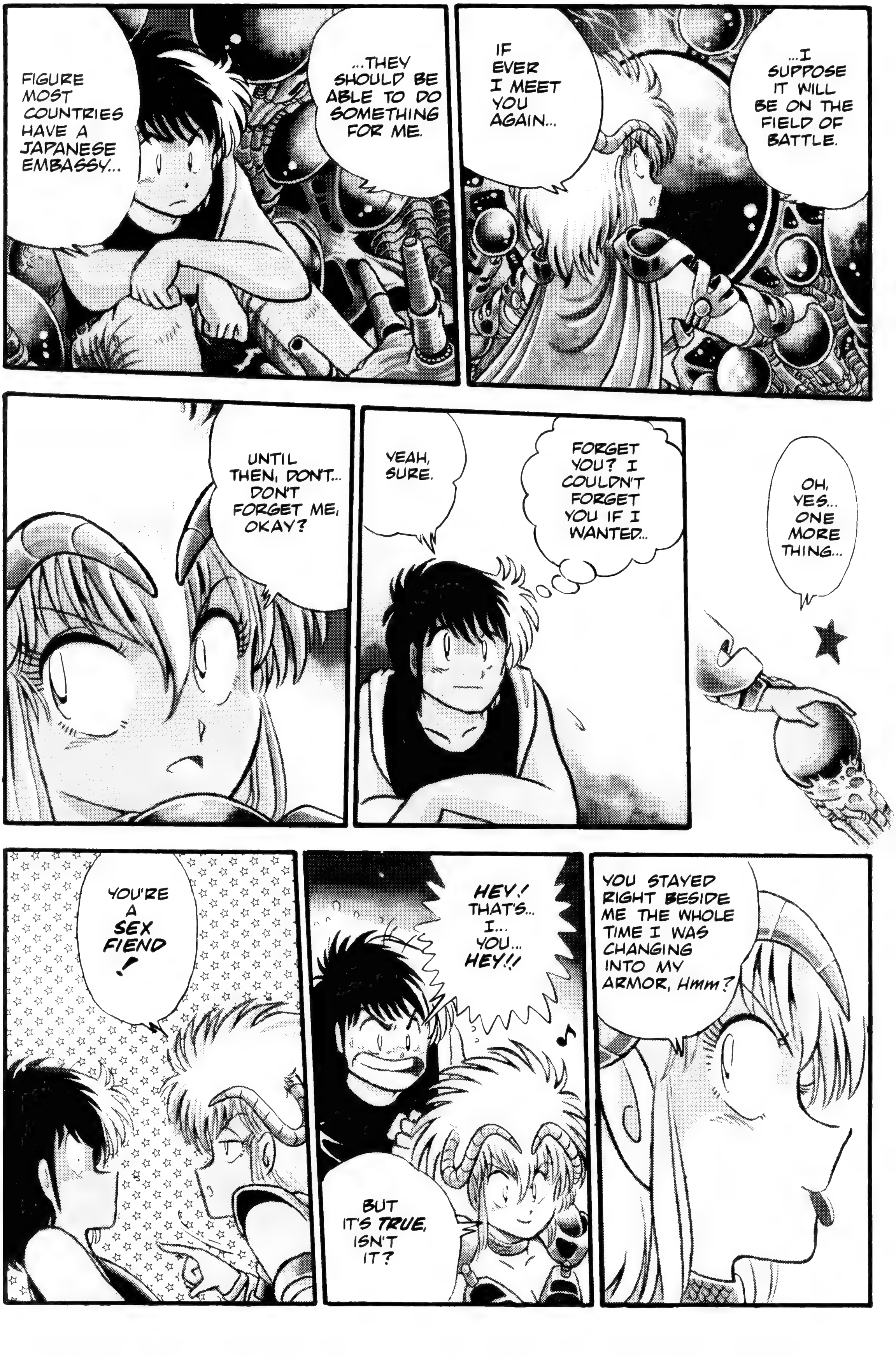
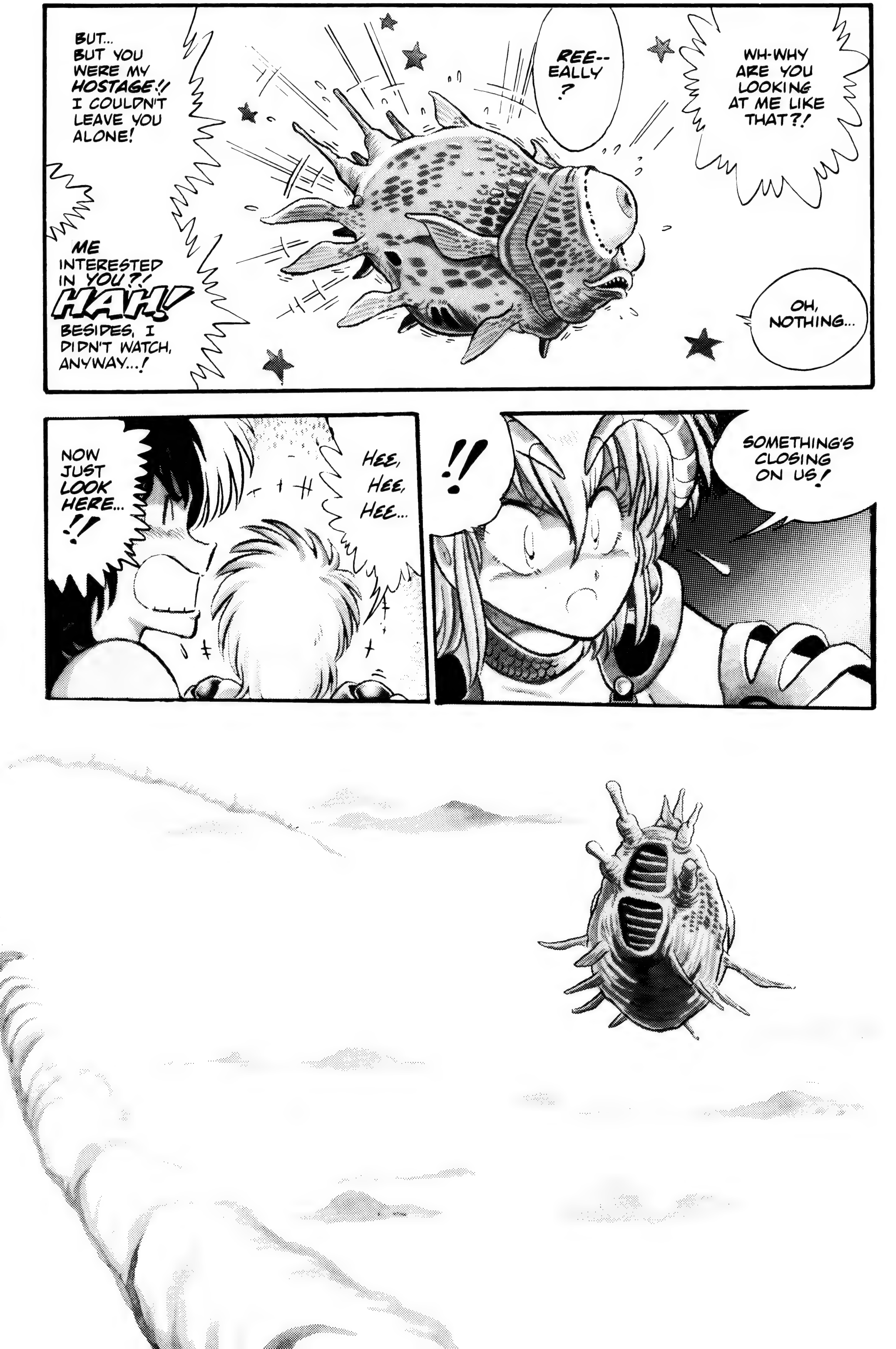
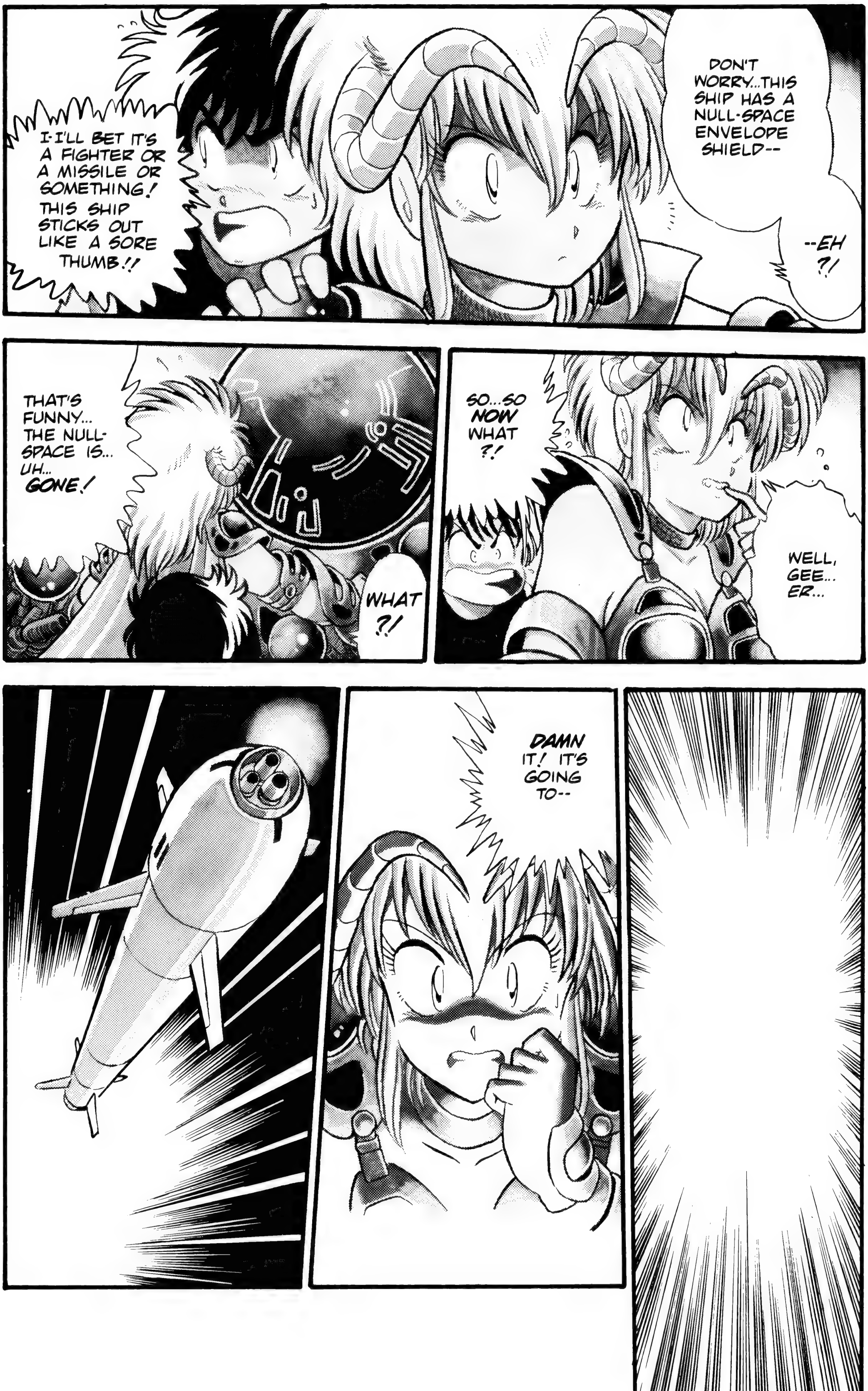
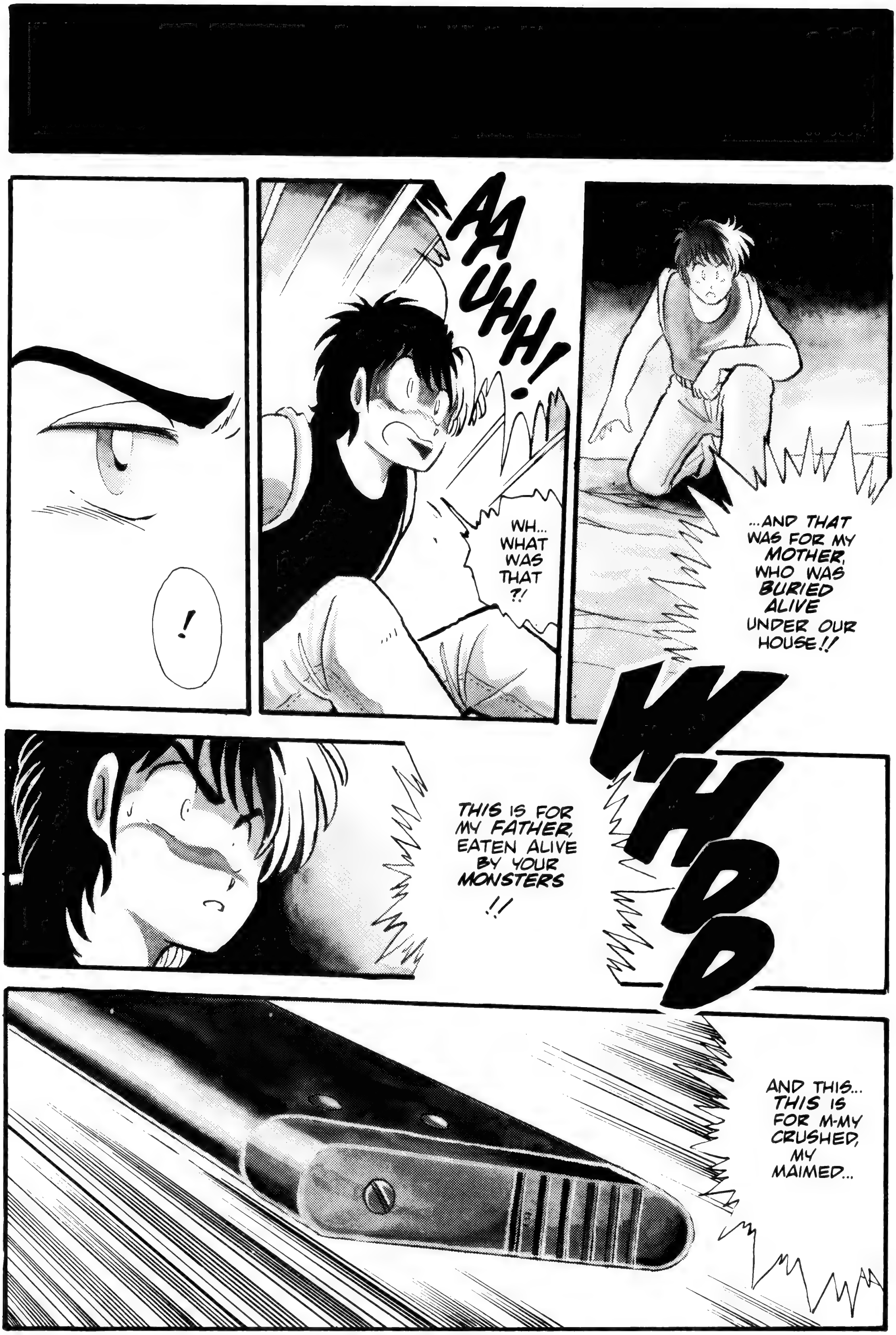
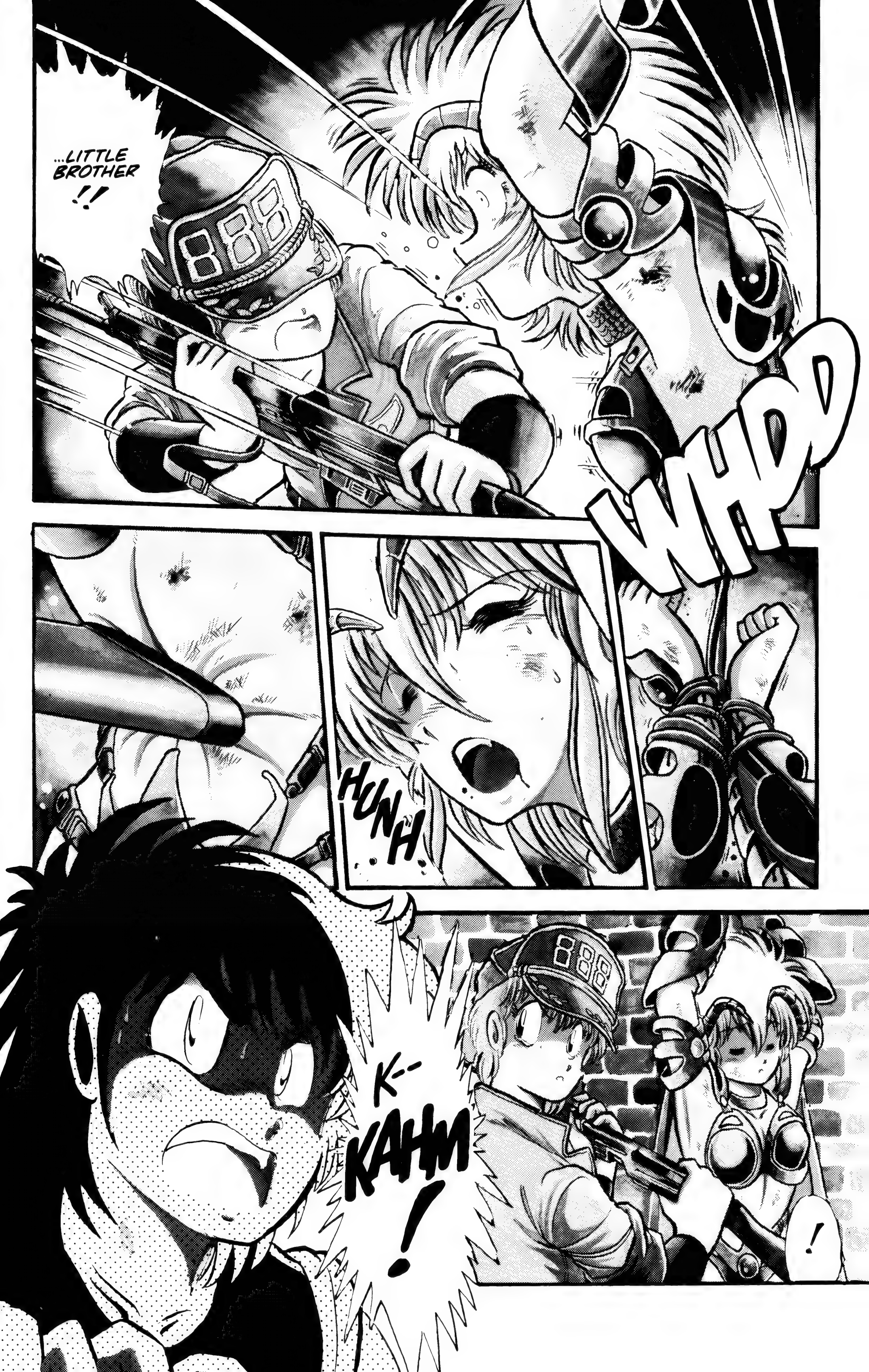


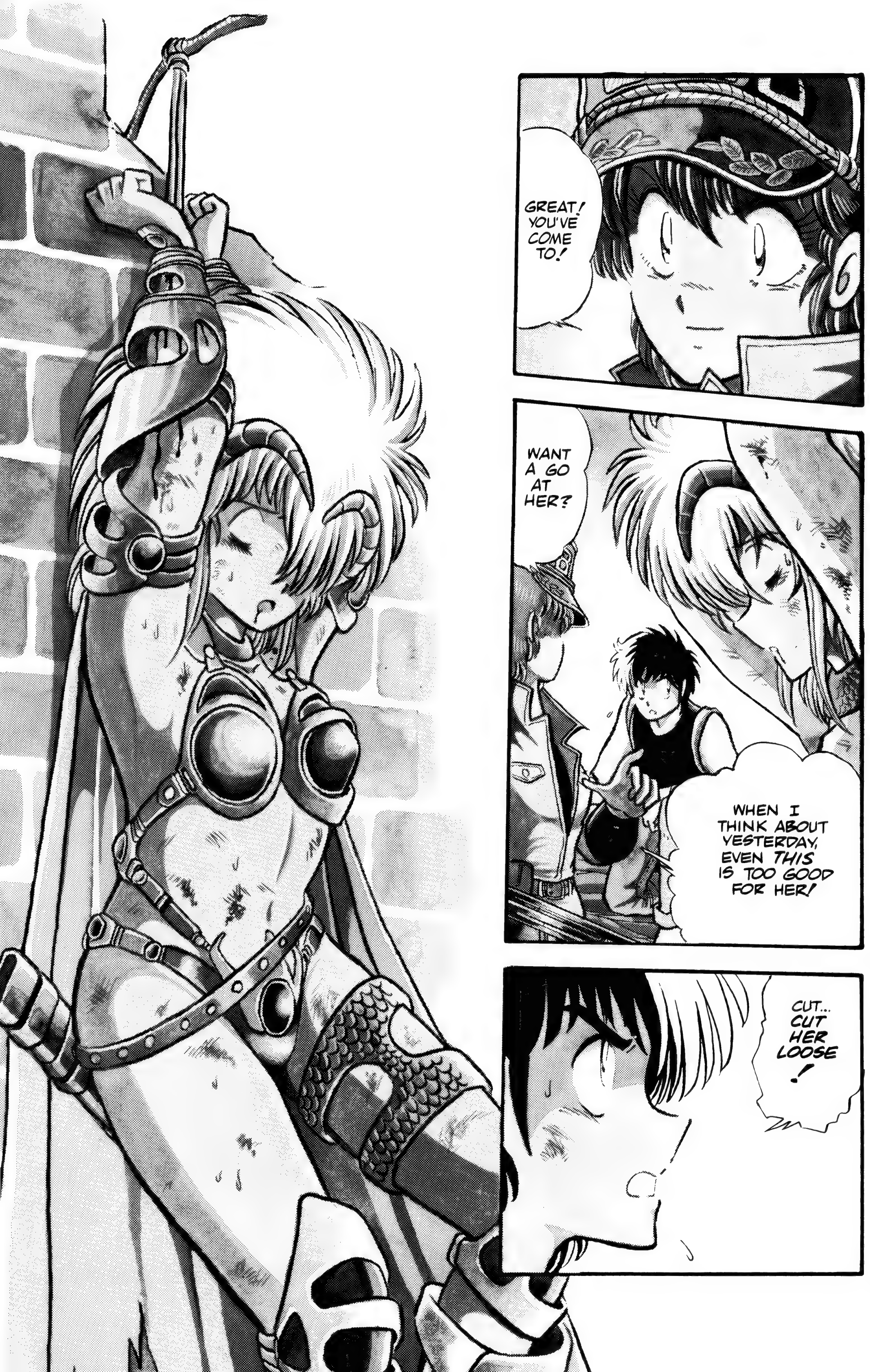
FIGURE MOST COUNTRIES HAVE A JAPANESE EMBASSY...
...THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME.
IF EVER I MEET YOU AGAIN...
...I SUPPOSE IT WILL BE ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.
UNTIL THEN, DON'T... DON'T FORGET ME, OKAY?
YEAH, SURE.
FORGET YOU? I COULDN'T FORGET YOU IF I WANTED...
OH, YES... ONE MORE THING...
YOU'RE A SEX FIEND!
HEY! THAT'S... I... YOU... HEY!!
BUT IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?
YOU STAYED RIGHT BESIDE ME THE WHOLE TIME I WAS CHANGING INTO MY ARMOR, Hmm?

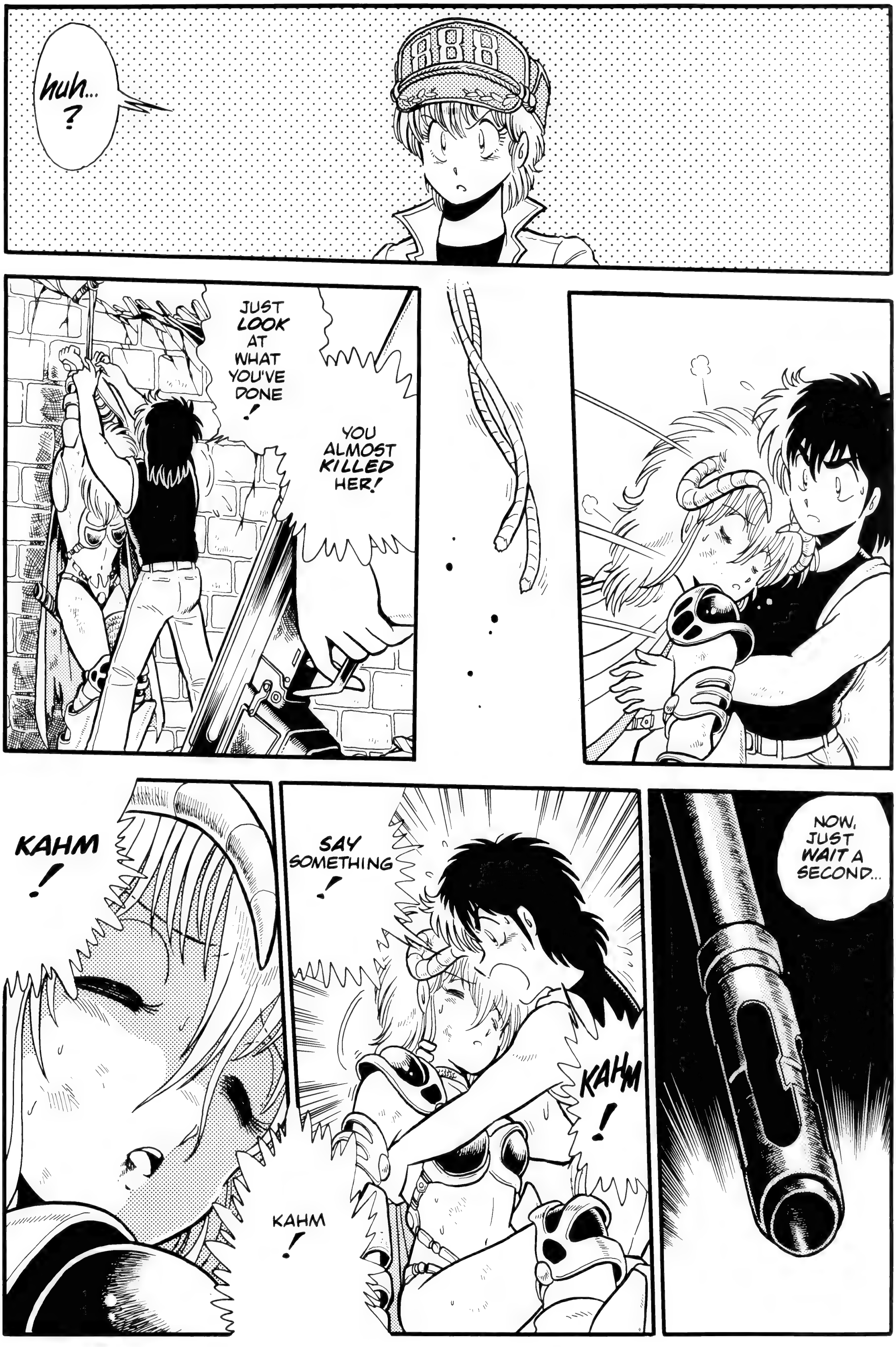

BUT... BUT YOU WERE MY *HOSTAGE*!! I COULDN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE!
ME INTERESTED IN *YOU*?! HAH! BESIDES, I DIDN'T WATCH, ANYWAY...!
REE--EALLY?
WH-WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?!
OH, NOTHING...
NOW JUST *LOOK* HERE...!!
HEE, HEE, HEE...
!!
SOMETHING'S CLOSING ON US!

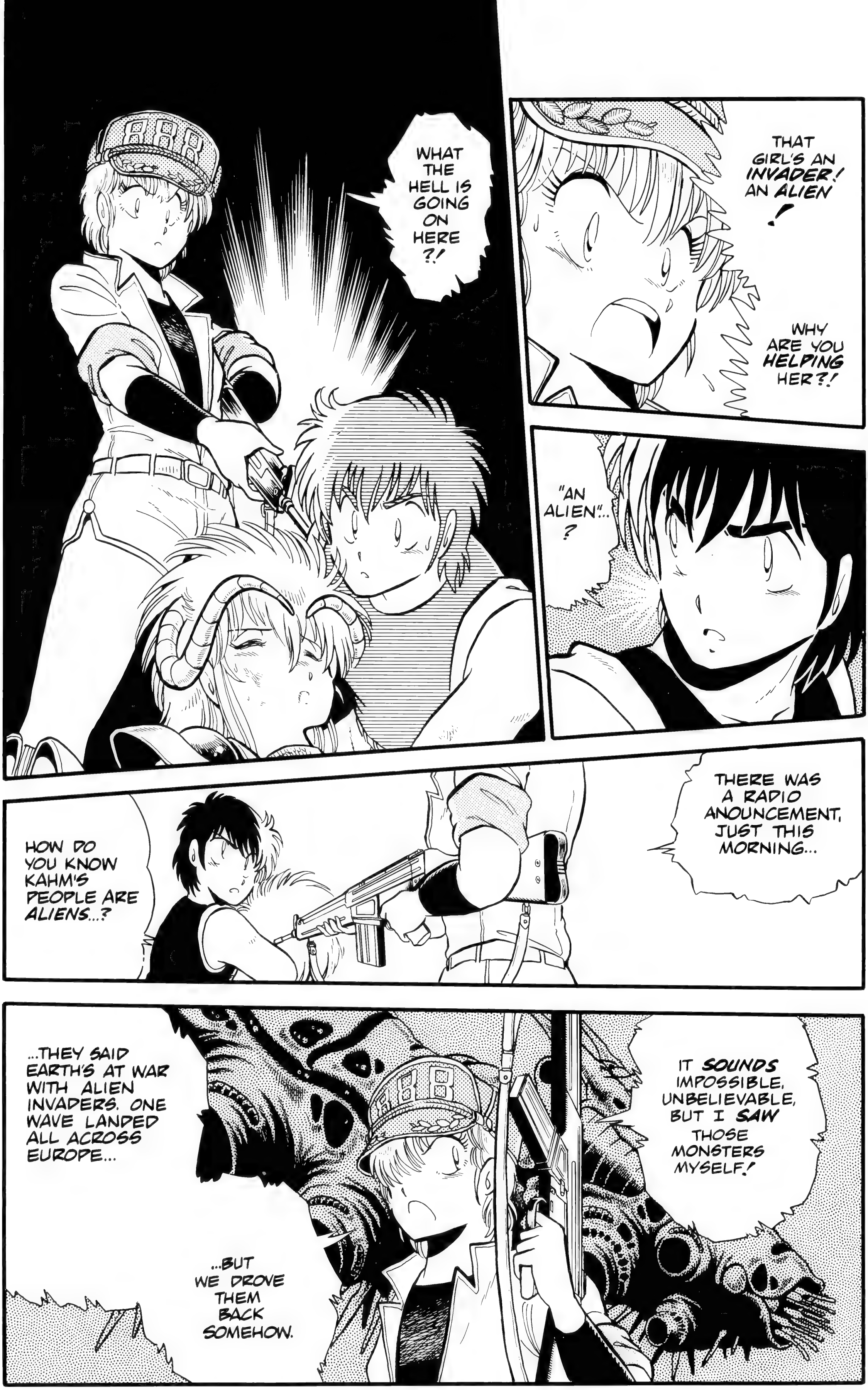

I-I'LL BET IT'S A FIGHTER OR A MISSILE OR SOMETHING! THIS SHIP STICKS OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB!!
DON'T WORRY...THIS SHIP HAS A NULL-SPACE ENVELOPE SHIELD--
--EH ?!
THAT'S FUNNY... THE NULL-SPACE IS... UH... **GONE**!
WHAT ?!
SO...SO ***NOW*** WHAT ?!
WELL, GEE... ER...
DAMN IT! IT'S GOING TO--

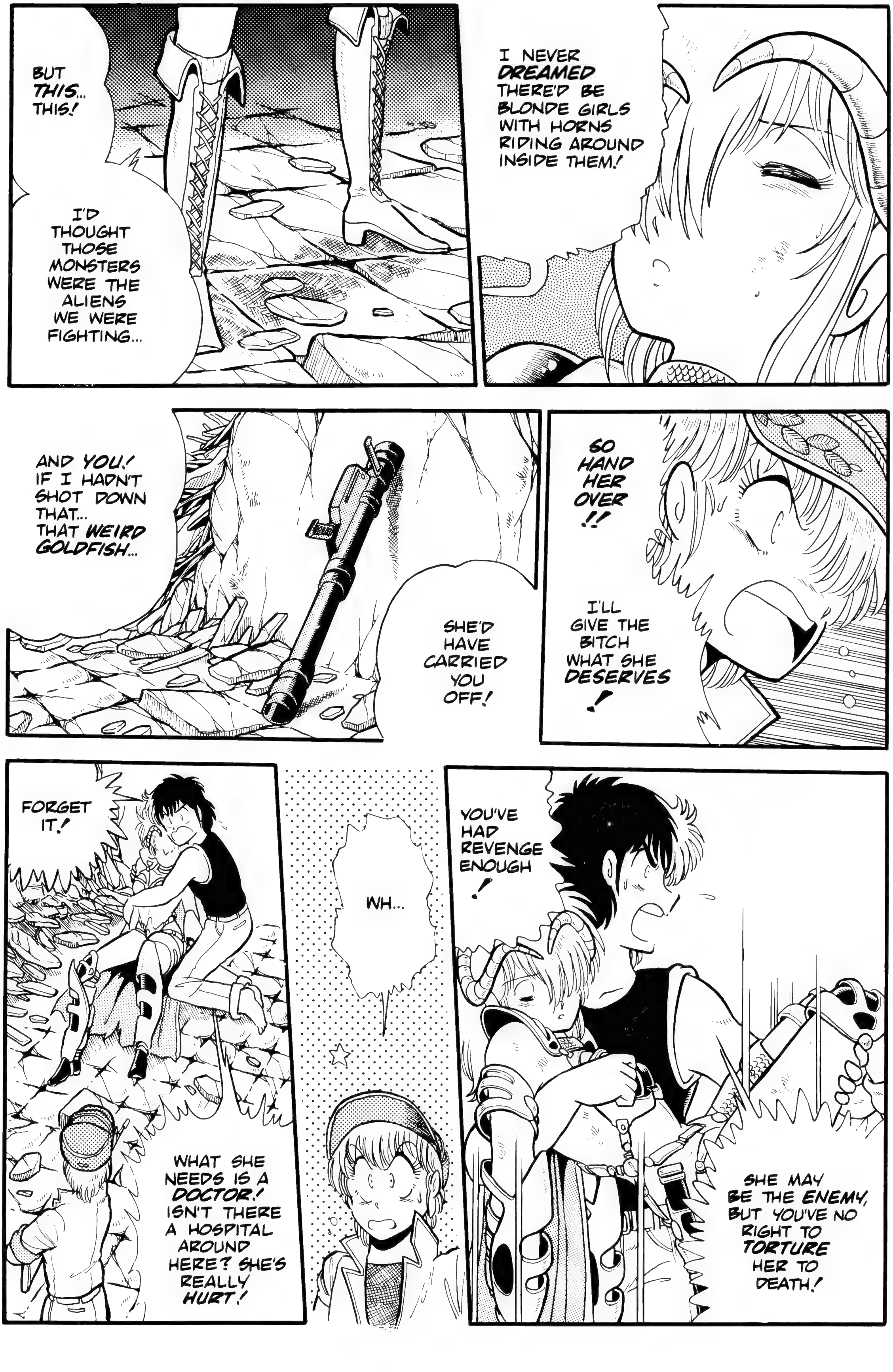

!
AAUHH!
WH... WHAT WAS THAT?!
...AND THAT WAS FOR MY MOTHER, WHO WAS BURIED ALIVE UNDER OUR HOUSE!!
WHDD
THIS IS FOR MY FATHER, EATEN ALIVE BY YOUR MONSTERS!!
AND THIS... THIS IS FOR M-MY CRUSHED, MY MAIMED...

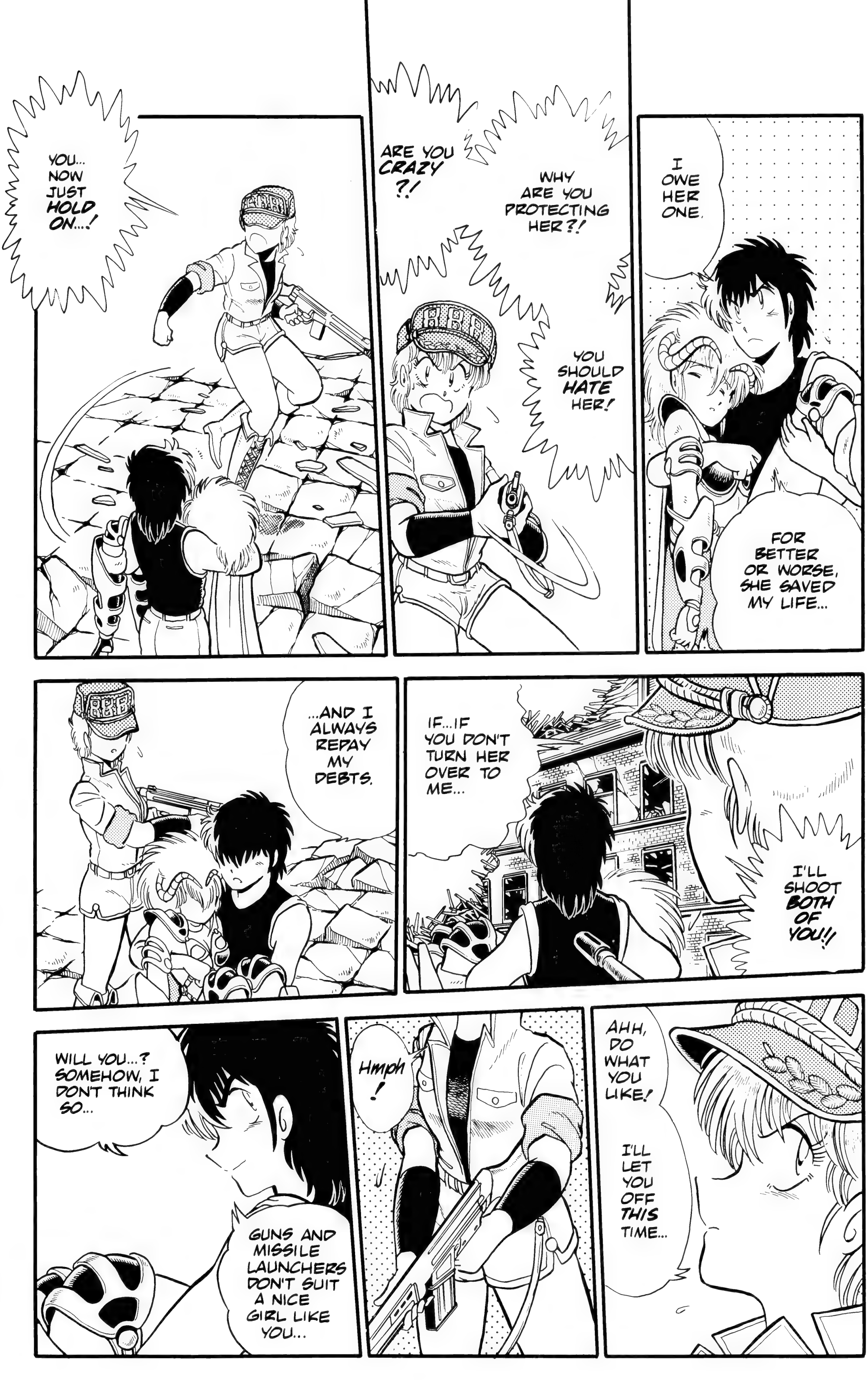

...LITTLE BROTHER !!
WHOD
HUNH
K-- KAHM !
!

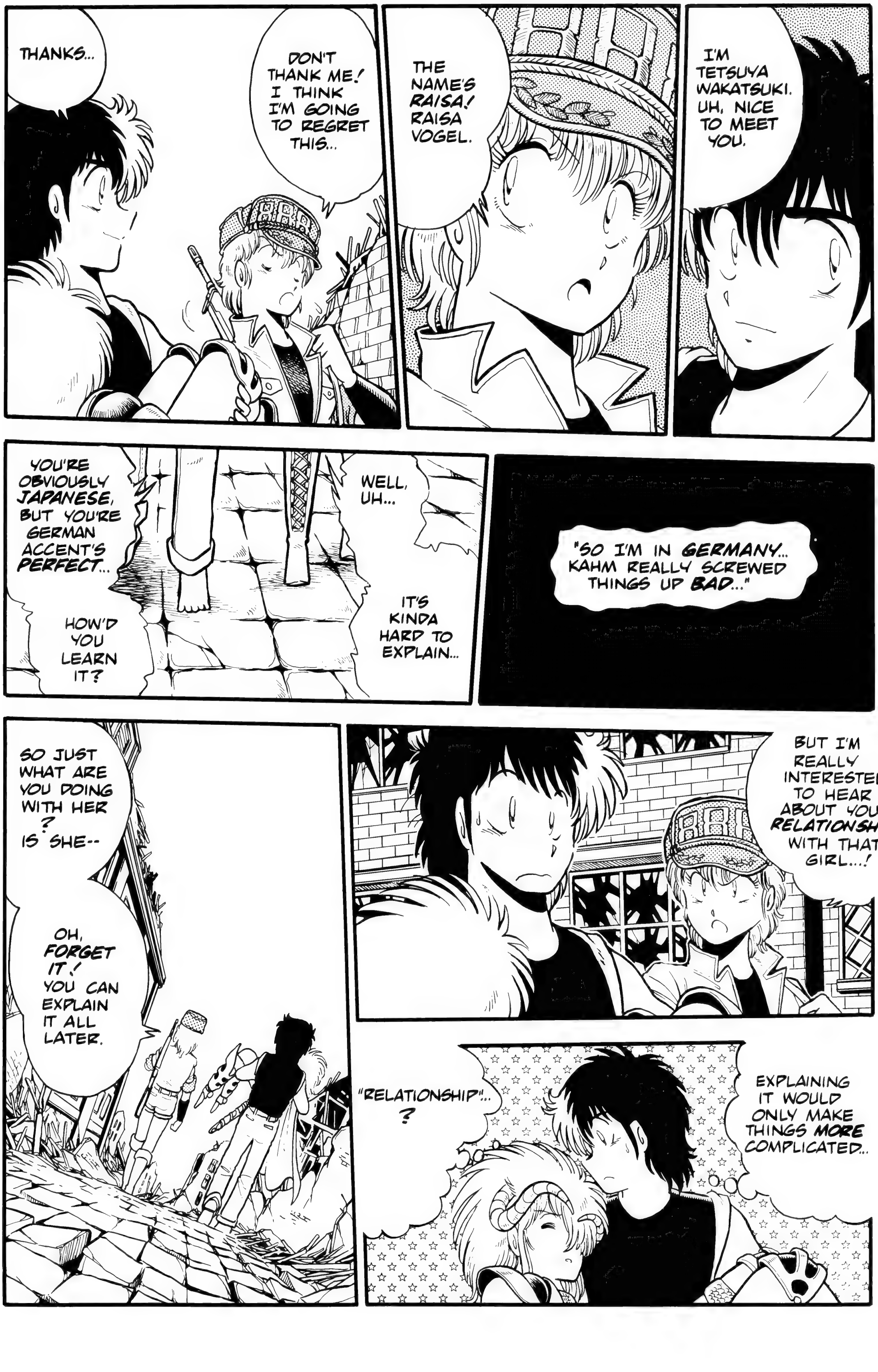

GREAT! YOU'VE COME TO!
WANT A GO AT HER?
WHEN I THINK ABOUT YESTERDAY, EVEN *THIS* IS TOO GOOD FOR HER!
CUT... CUT HER LOOSE!

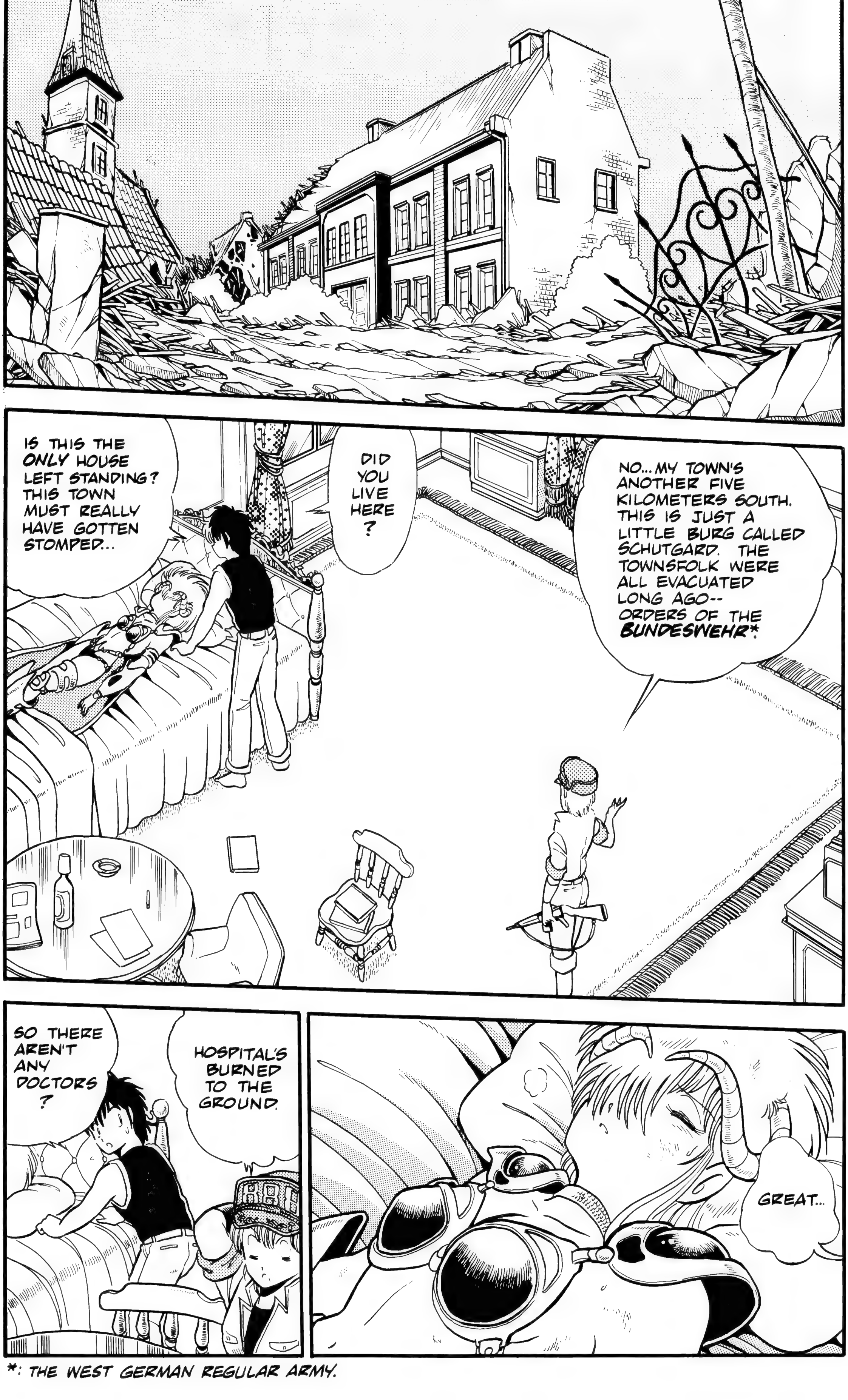

huh...?
JUST LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
YOU ALMOST KILLED HER!
KAHM!
SAY SOMETHING!
KAHM!
KAHM!
NOW, JUST WAIT A SECOND...


WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!
THAT GIRL'S AN *INVADER!* AN *ALIEN!*
WHY ARE YOU *HELPING* HER?!
"AN ALIEN"...?
HOW DO YOU KNOW KAHM'S PEOPLE ARE *ALIENS*...?
THERE WAS A RADIO ANOUNCEMENT, JUST THIS MORNING...
...THEY SAID EARTH'S AT WAR WITH ALIEN INVADERS. ONE WAVE LANDED ALL ACROSS EUROPE...
...BUT WE DROVE THEM BACK SOMEHOW.
IT *SOUNDS* IMPOSSIBLE, UNBELIEVABLE, BUT I *SAW* THOSE MONSTERS MYSELF!

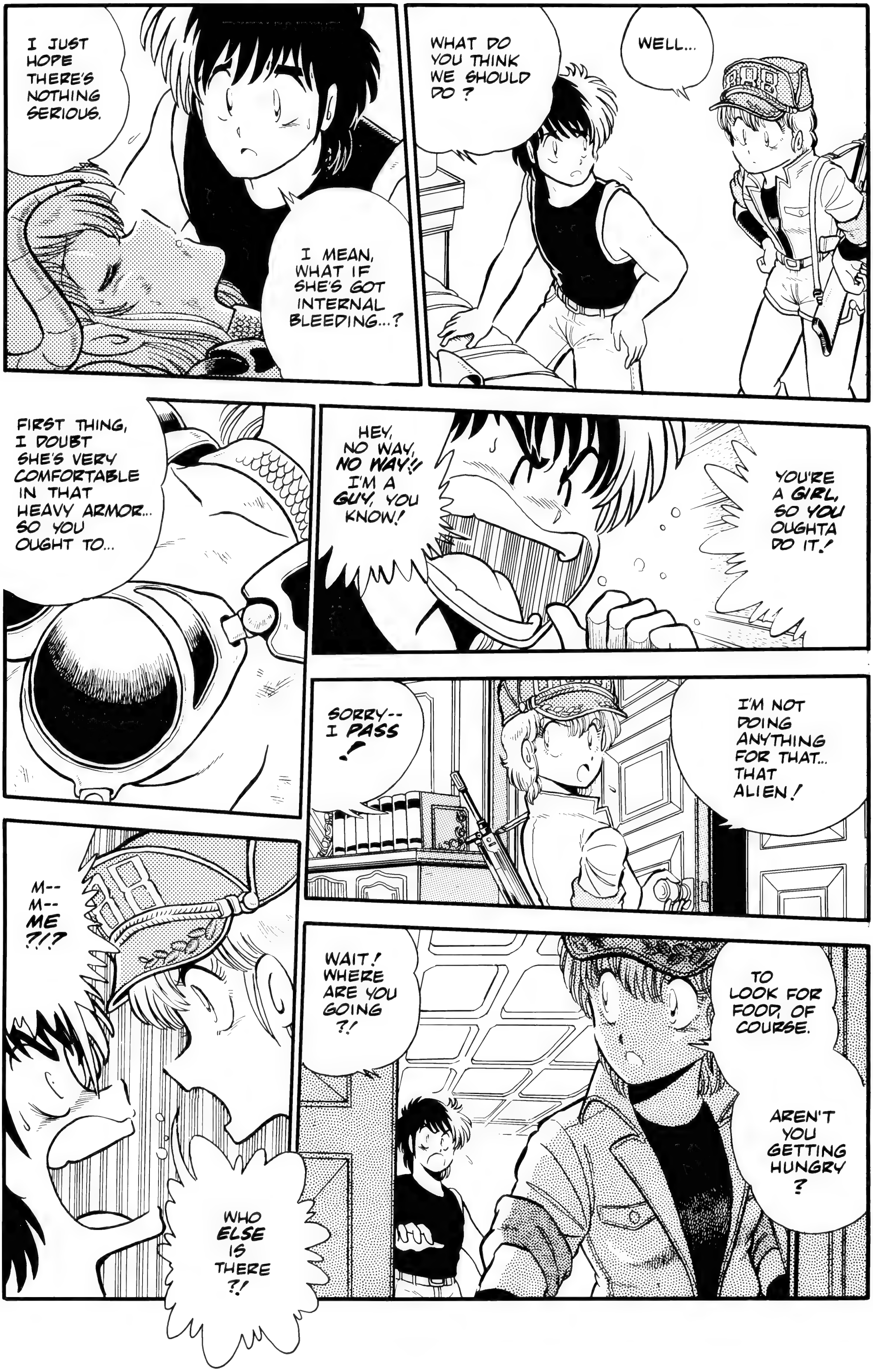

BUT *THIS*... THIS!
I'D THOUGHT THOSE MONSTERS WERE THE ALIENS WE WERE FIGHTING...
I NEVER *DREAMED* THERE'D BE BLONDE GIRLS WITH HORNS RIDING AROUND INSIDE THEM!
AND *YOU!* IF I HADN'T SHOT DOWN THAT... THAT *WEIRD GOLDFISH*...
SHE'D HAVE CARRIED YOU OFF!
SO HAND HER OVER!!
I'LL GIVE THE BITCH WHAT SHE *DESERVES!*
FORGET IT!
WHAT SHE NEEDS IS A *DOCTOR!* ISN'T THERE A HOSPITAL AROUND HERE? SHE'S REALLY *HURT!*
WH...
YOU'VE HAD REVENGE ENOUGH!
SHE MAY BE THE *ENEMY,* BUT YOU'VE NO RIGHT TO *TORTURE* HER TO DEATH!

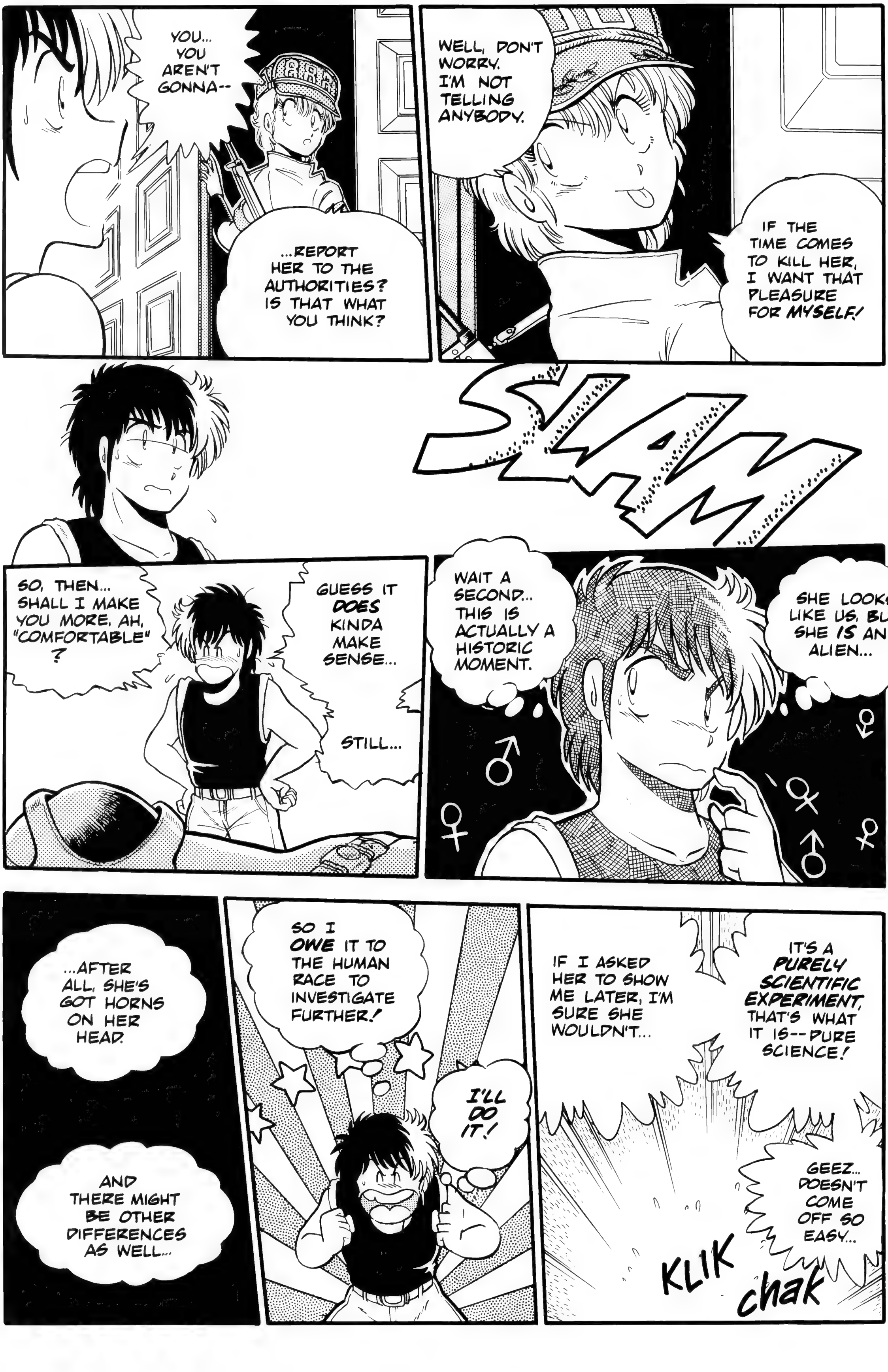

YOU... NOW JUST **HOLD ON...!**
ARE YOU **CRAZY** ?!
WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING HER?!
YOU SHOULD **HATE** HER!
I OWE HER ONE.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, SHE SAVED MY LIFE...
...AND I ALWAYS REPAY MY DEBTS.
IF...IF YOU DON'T TURN HER OVER TO ME...
I'LL **SHOOT BOTH OF YOU!!**
WILL YOU...? SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK SO...
GUNS AND MISSILE LAUNCHERS DON'T SUIT A NICE GIRL LIKE YOU...
Hmph!
AHH, DO WHAT YOU LIKE!
I'LL LET YOU OFF **THIS** TIME...

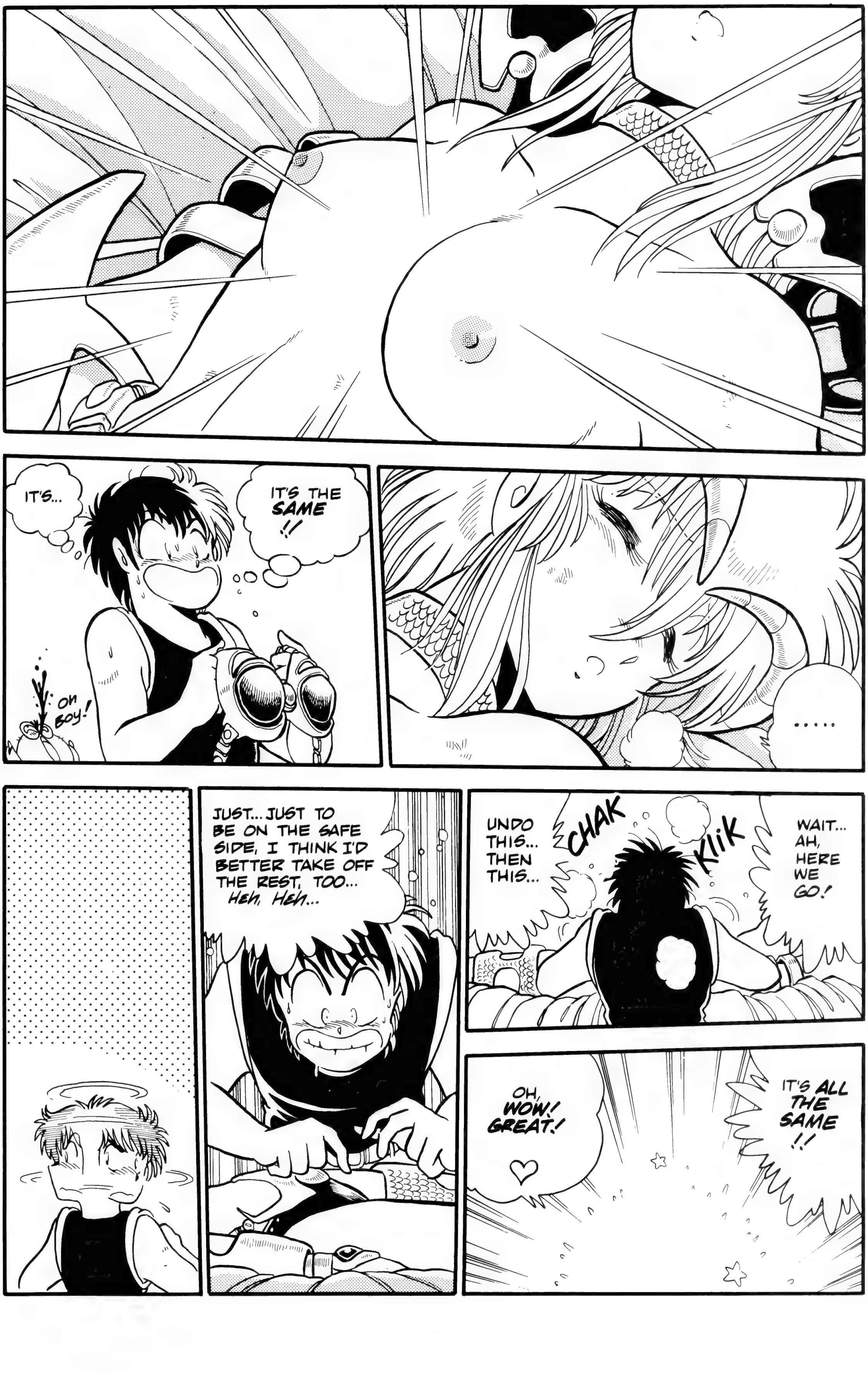

THANKS...
DON'T THANK ME! I THINK I'M GOING TO REGRET THIS...
THE NAME'S RAISA! RAISA VOGEL.
I'M TETSUYA WAKATSUKI. UH, NICE TO MEET YOU.
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY JAPANESE, BUT YOU'RE GERMAN ACCENT'S PERFECT...
HOW'D YOU LEARN IT?
WELL, UH...
IT'S KINDA HARD TO EXPLAIN...
"SO I'M IN GERMANY... KAHM REALLY SCREWED THINGS UP BAD..."
SO JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HER? IS SHE--
OH, FORGET IT! YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT ALL LATER.
BUT I'M REALLY INTERESTED TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT GIRL...!
"RELATIONSHIP"...?
EXPLAINING IT WOULD ONLY MAKE THINGS MORE COMPLICATED...

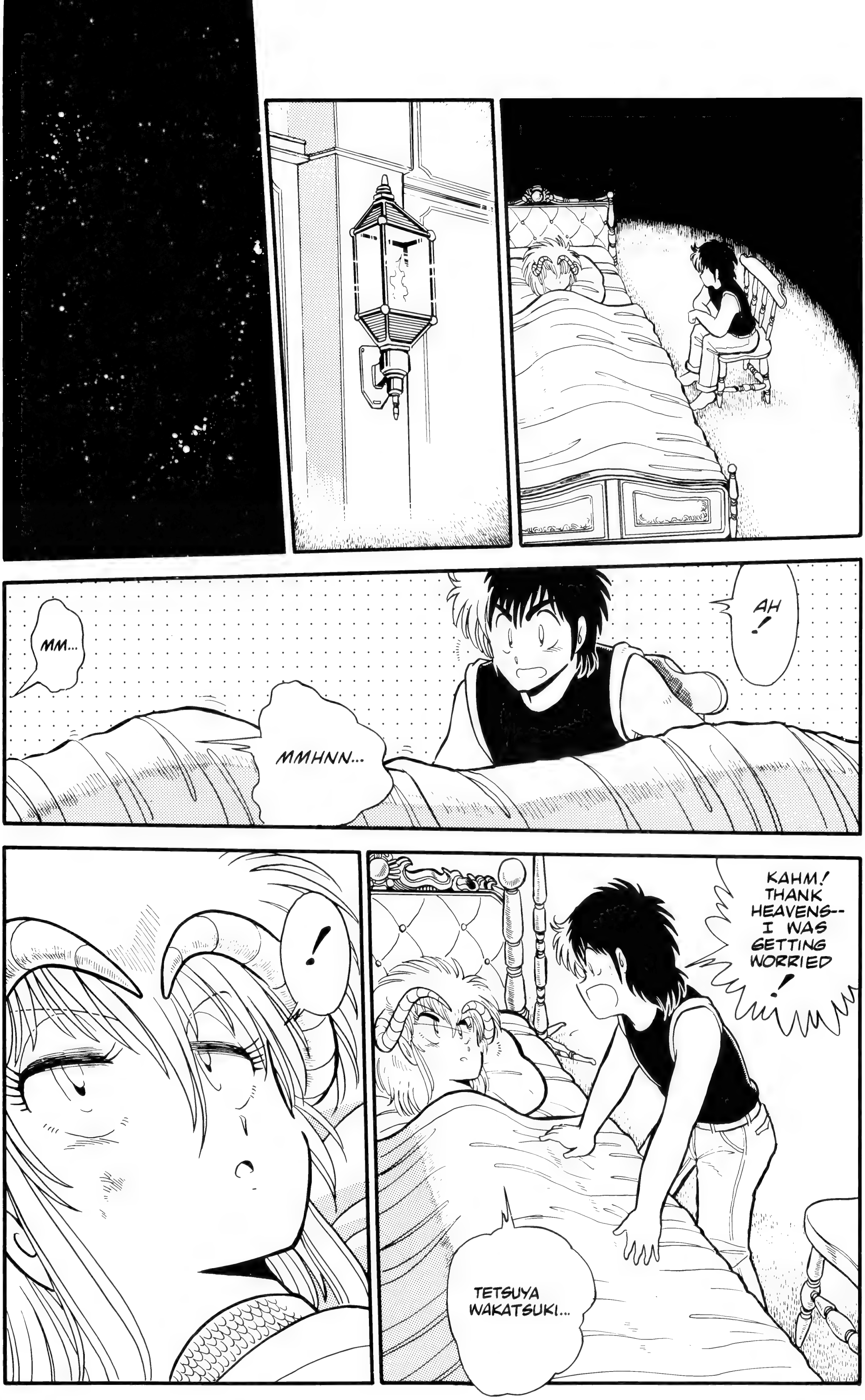

IS THIS THE ONLY HOUSE LEFT STANDING? THIS TOWN MUST REALLY HAVE GOTTEN STOMPED...
DID YOU LIVE HERE?
NO... MY TOWN'S ANOTHER FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTH. THIS IS JUST A LITTLE BURG CALLED SCHUTGARD. THE TOWNSFOLK WERE ALL EVACUATED LONG AGO-- ORDERS OF THE BUNDESWEHR*.
SO THERE AREN'T ANY DOCTORS?
HOSPITAL'S BURNED TO THE GROUND.
GREAT...

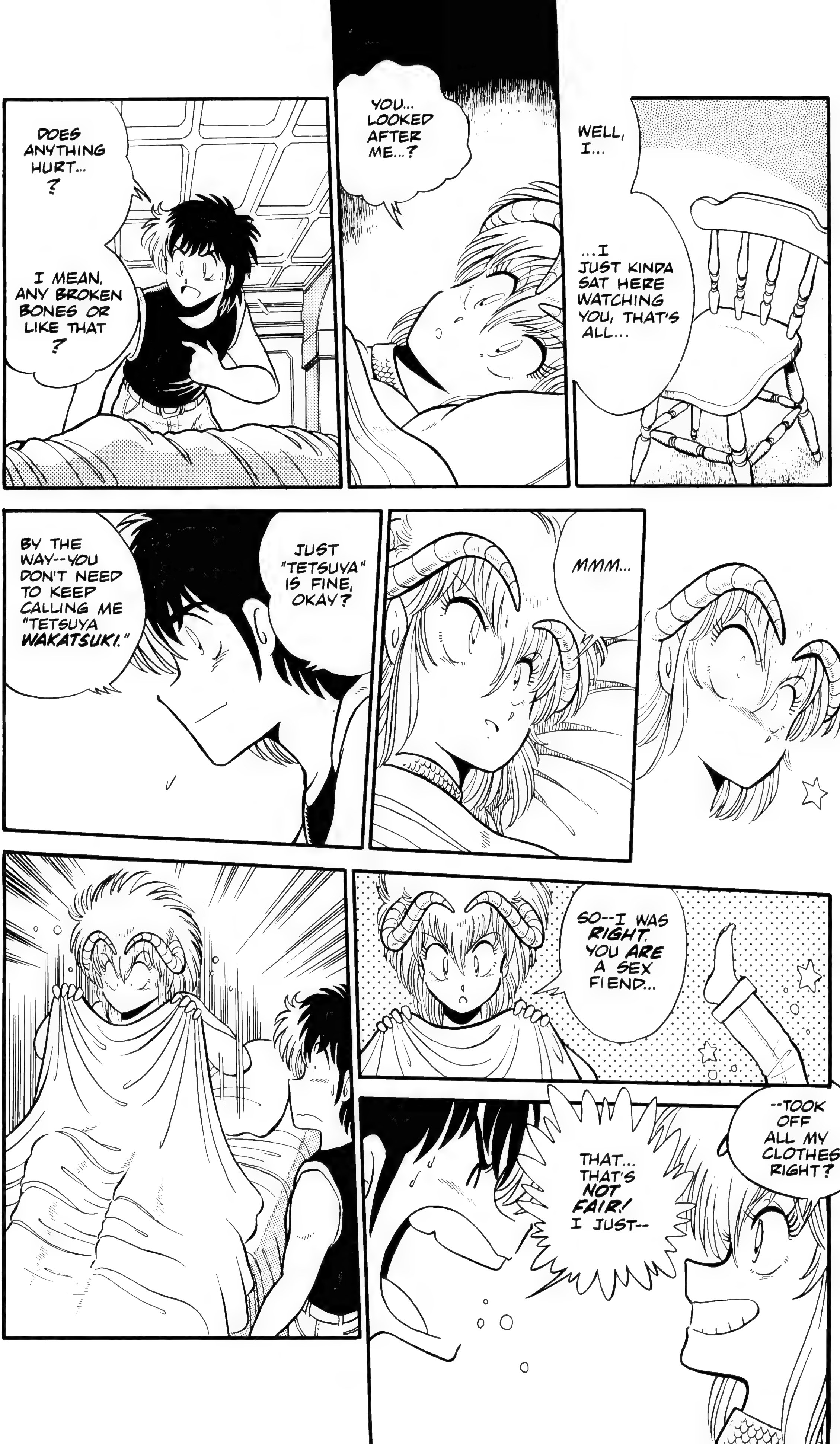
*: THE WEST GERMAN REGULAR ARMY.

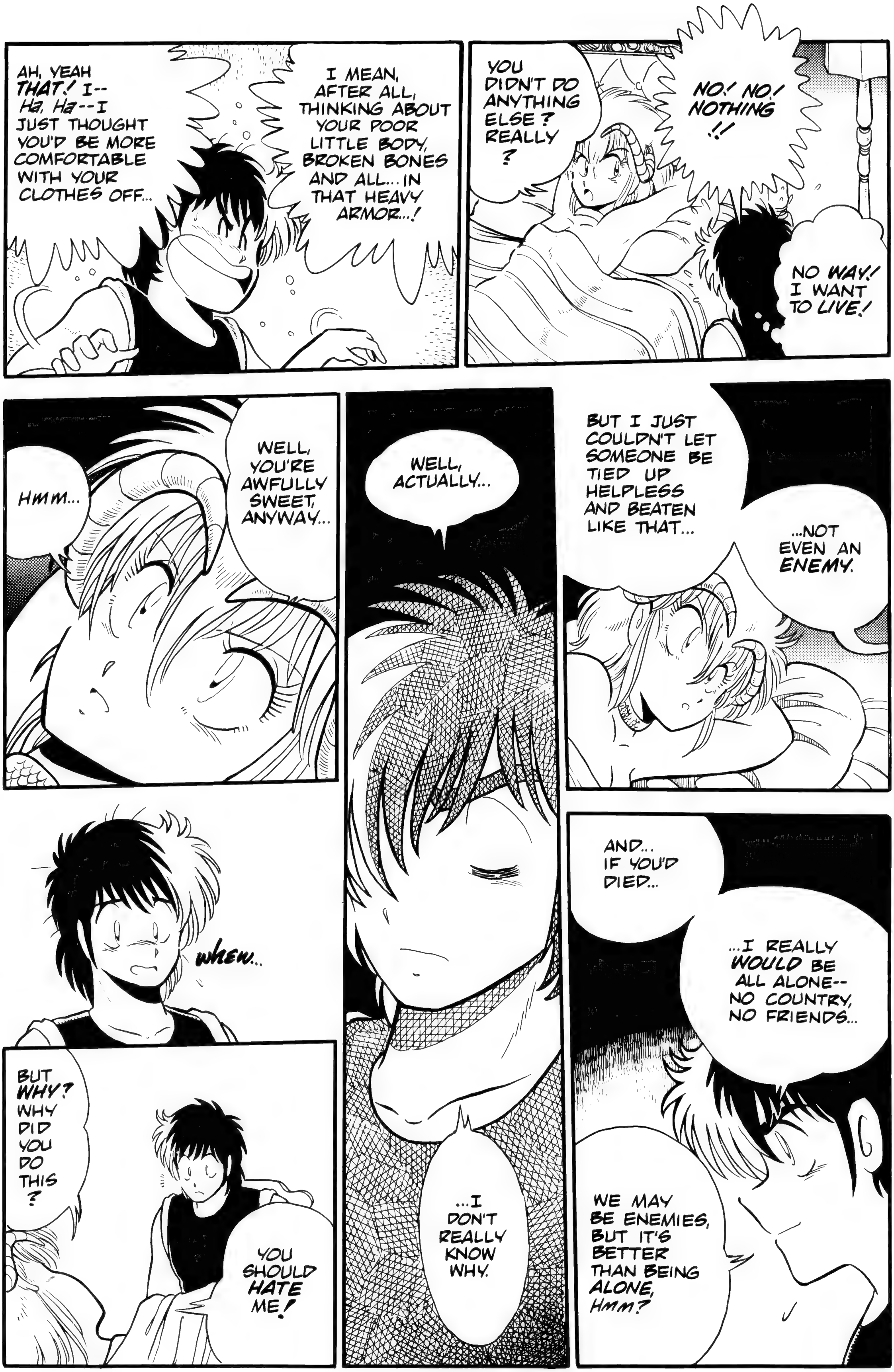

I JUST HOPE THERE'S NOTHING SERIOUS.
I MEAN, WHAT IF SHE'S GOT INTERNAL BLEEDING...?
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?
WELL...
FIRST THING, I DOUBT SHE'S VERY COMFORTABLE IN THAT HEAVY ARMOR... SO YOU OUGHT TO...
HEY, NO WAY, NO WAY!! I'M A GUY, YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE A GIRL, SO YOU OUGHTA DO IT!
M-- M-- ME ?!?
WHO ELSE IS THERE ?!
SORRY-- I PASS!
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING FOR THAT... THAT ALIEN!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?!
TO LOOK FOR FOOD, OF COURSE.
AREN'T YOU GETTING HUNGRY ?

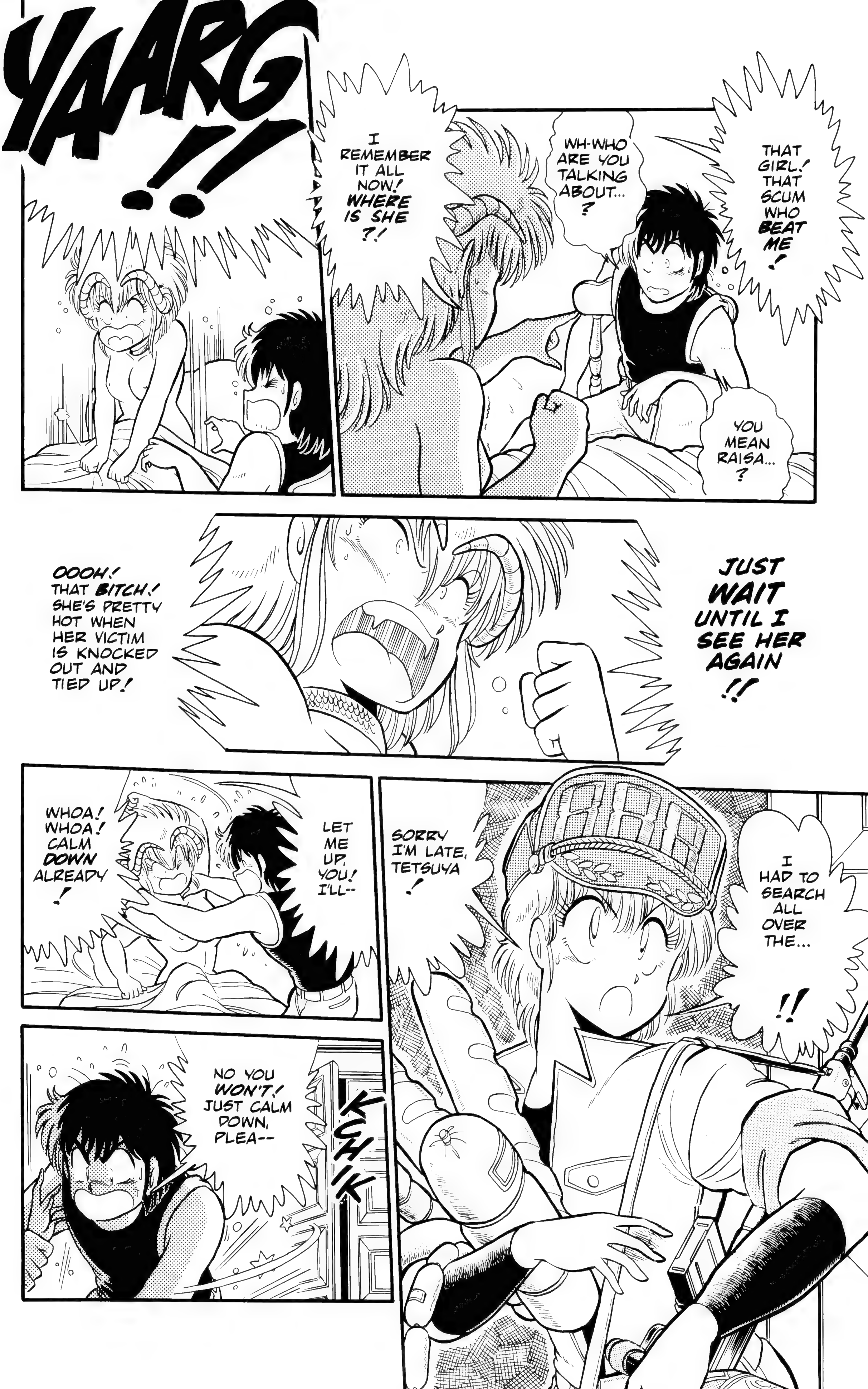

YOU... YOU AREN'T GONNA--
...REPORT HER TO THE AUTHORITIES? IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?
WELL, DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT TELLING ANYBODY.
IF THE TIME COMES TO KILL HER, I WANT THAT PLEASURE FOR MYSELF!
SLAM
SO, THEN... SHALL I MAKE YOU MORE, AH, "COMFORTABLE"?
GUESS IT DOES KINDA MAKE SENSE...
STILL...
WAIT A SECOND... THIS IS ACTUALLY A HISTORIC MOMENT.
SHE LOOKS LIKE US, BUT SHE IS AN ALIEN...
...AFTER ALL, SHE'S GOT HORNS ON HER HEAD.
AND THERE MIGHT BE OTHER DIFFERENCES AS WELL...
SO I OWE IT TO THE HUMAN RACE TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER!
I'LL DO IT!
IF I ASKED HER TO SHOW ME LATER, I'M SURE SHE WOULDN'T...
IT'S A PURELY SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT, THAT'S WHAT IT IS--PURE SCIENCE!
GEEZ... DOESN'T COME OFF SO EASY...
KLIK
chak

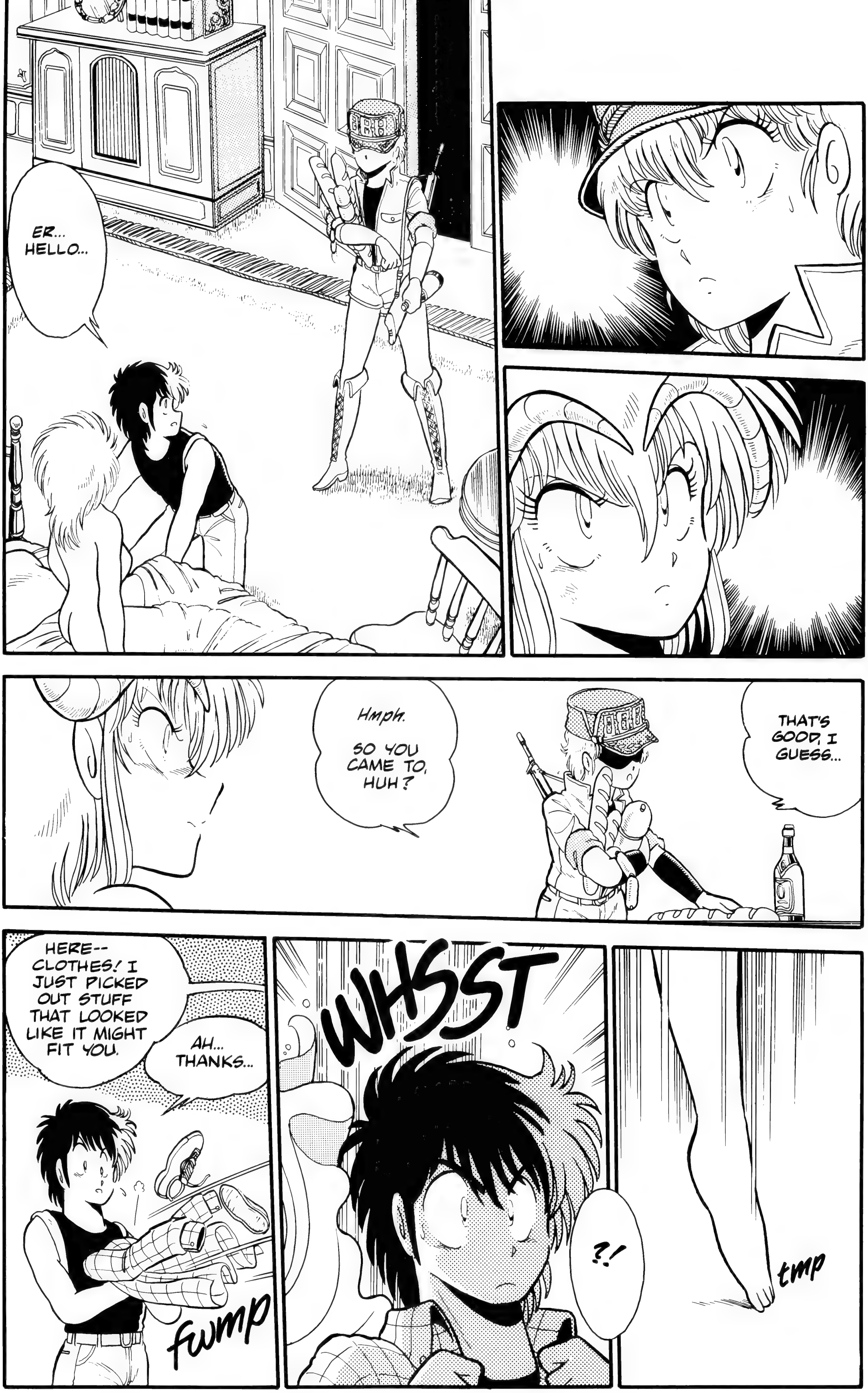

IT'S...
IT'S THE SAME!!
OH BOY!
.....
JUST... JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, I THINK I'D BETTER TAKE OFF THE REST, TOO... Heh, Heh...
UNDO THIS... THEN THIS...
CHAK
KLIK
WAIT... AH, HERE WE GO!
OH, WOW! GREAT!
IT'S ALL THE SAME!!

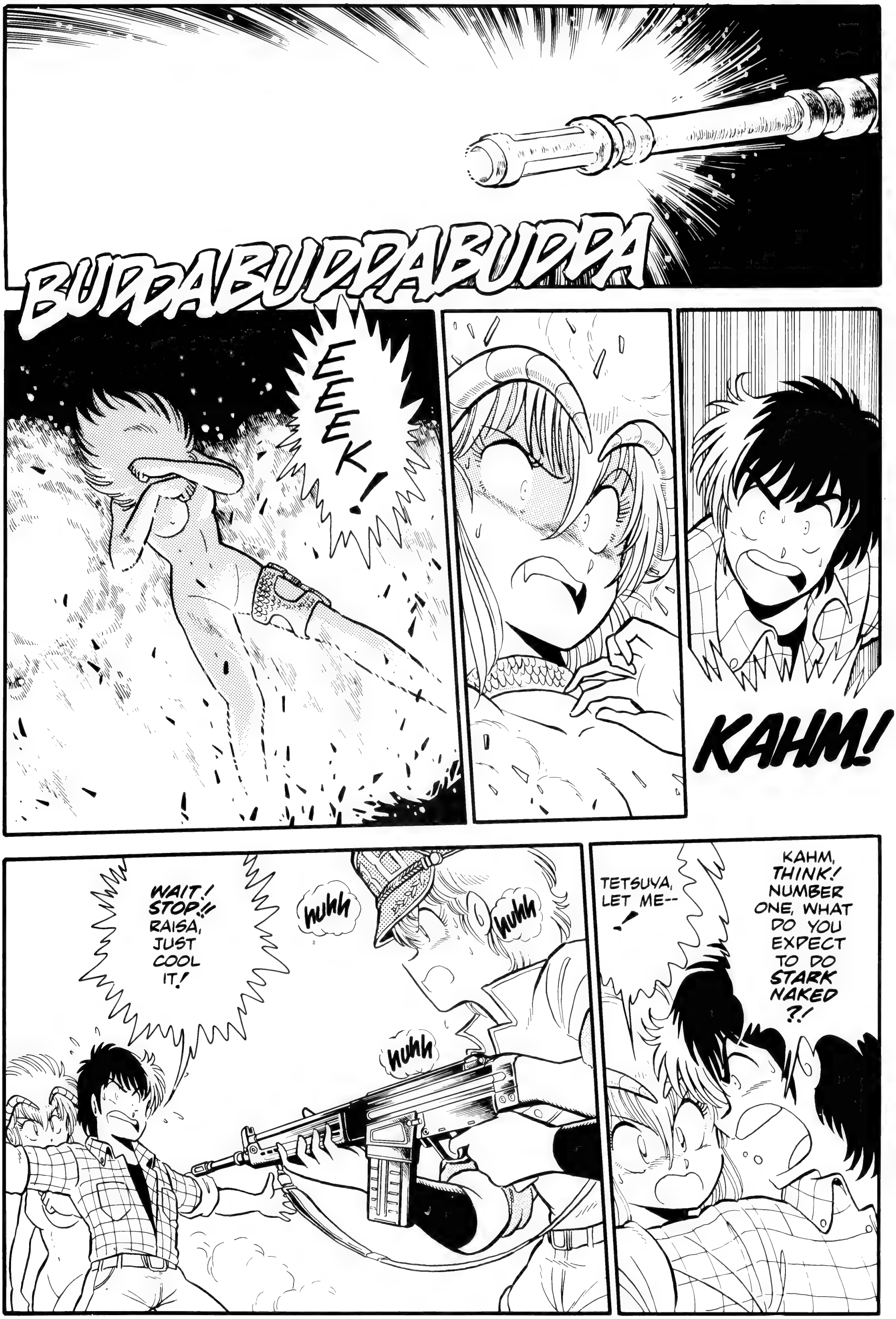

MM...
MMHNN...
AH!
!
KAHM! THANK HEAVENS-- I WAS GETTING WORRIED!
TETSUYA WAKATSUKI...

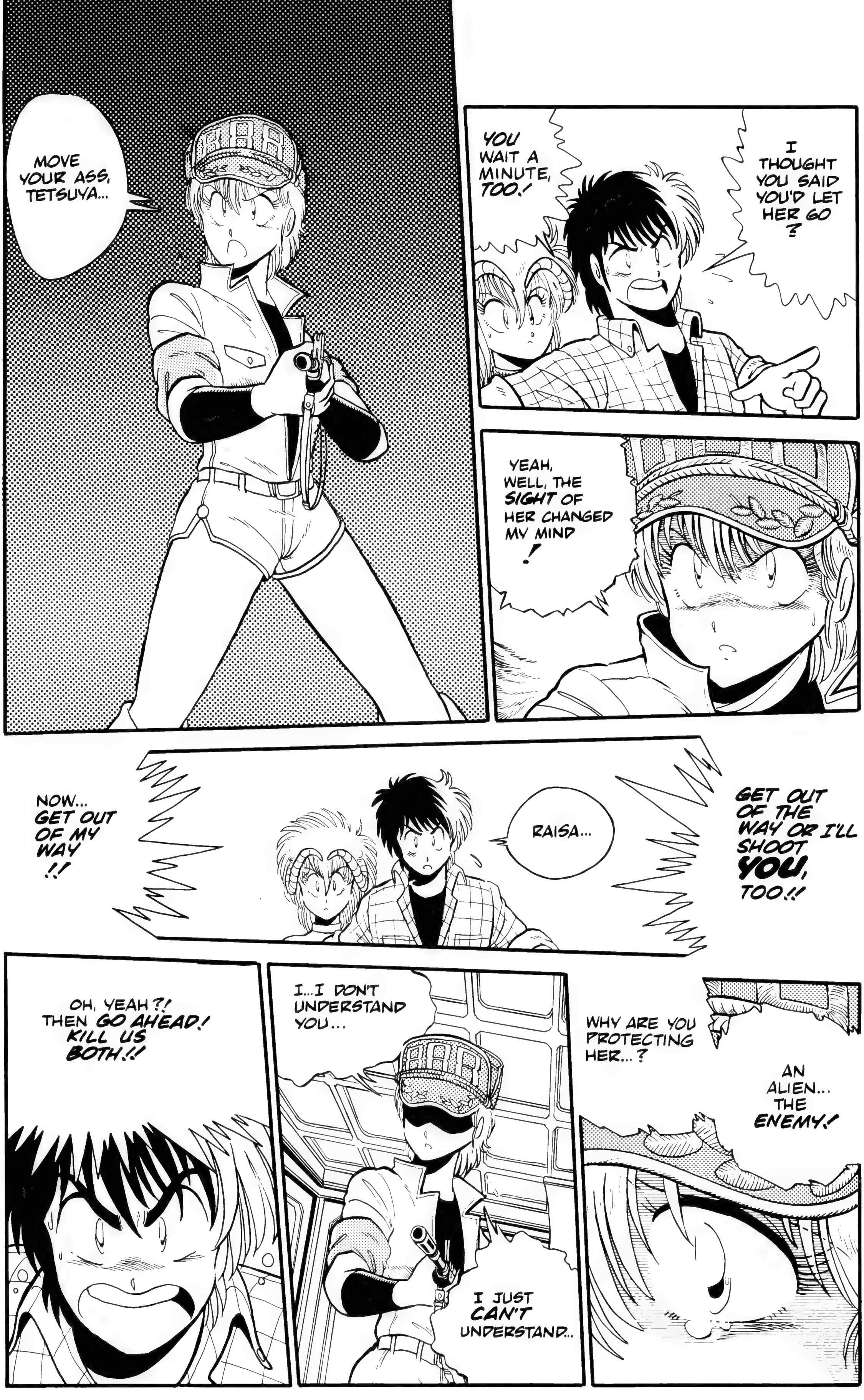

DOES ANYTHING HURT...?
I MEAN, ANY BROKEN BONES OR LIKE THAT?
YOU... LOOKED AFTER ME...?
WELL, I...
...I JUST KINDA SAT HERE WATCHING YOU, THAT'S ALL...
BY THE WAY--YOU DON'T NEED TO KEEP CALLING ME "TETSUYA **WAKATSUKI**."
JUST "TETSUYA" IS FINE, OKAY?
MMM...
SO--I WAS **RIGHT**. YOU **ARE** A SEX FIEND...
THAT... THAT'S **NOT FAIR!** I JUST--
--TOOK OFF ALL MY CLOTHES, RIGHT?

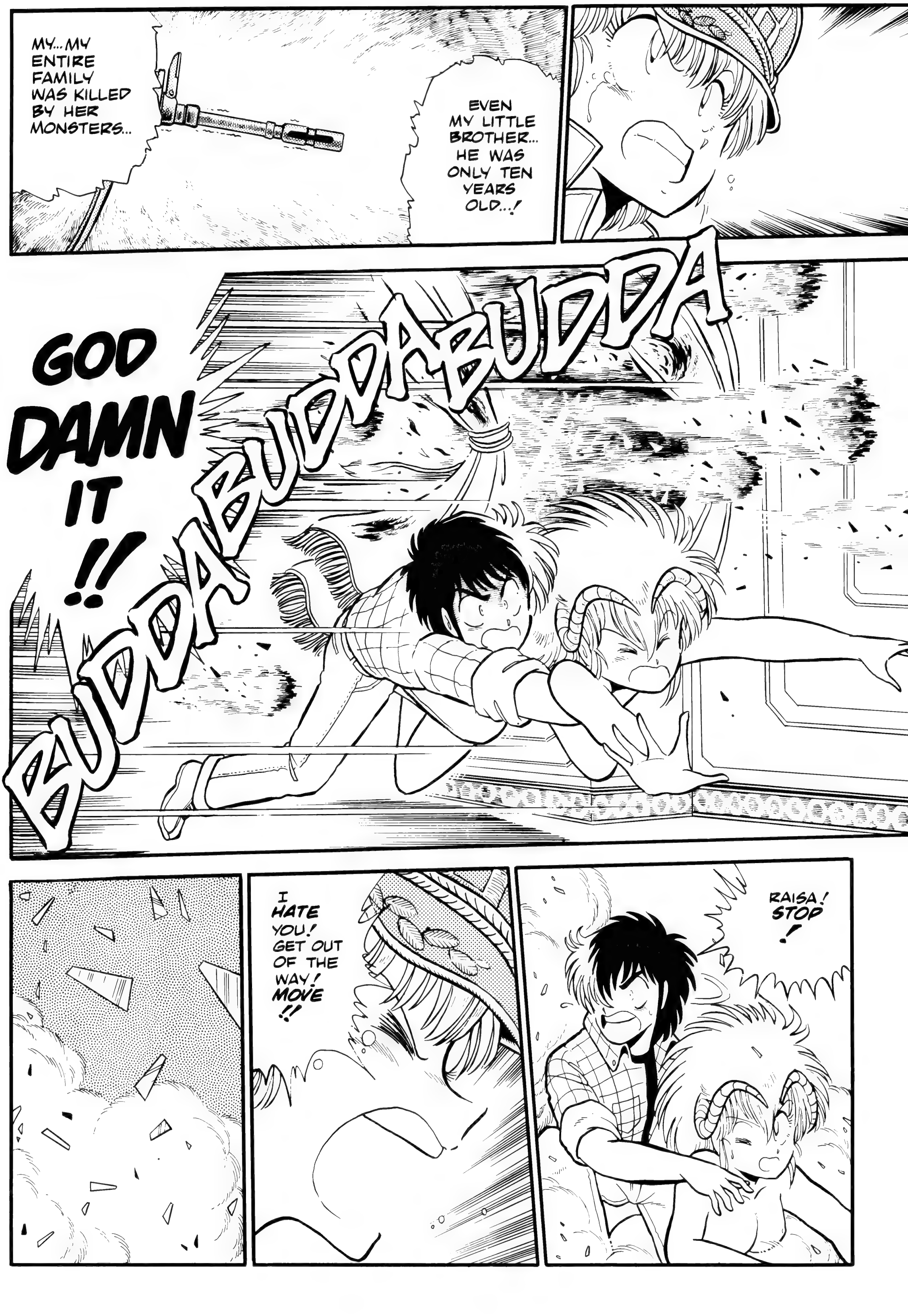

AH, YEAH *THAT!* I-- *Ha, Ha*--I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR CLOTHES OFF...
I MEAN, AFTER ALL, THINKING ABOUT YOUR POOR LITTLE BODY, BROKEN BONES AND ALL... IN THAT HEAVY ARMOR...!
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE? REALLY?
NO! NO! NOTHING!!
NO *WAY!* I WANT TO *LIVE!*
HMM...
WELL, YOU'RE AWFULLY SWEET, ANYWAY...
whew...
BUT *WHY?* WHY DID YOU DO THIS?
YOU SHOULD *HATE* ME!
WELL, ACTUALLY...
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY.
BUT I JUST COULDN'T LET SOMEONE BE TIED UP HELPLESS AND BEATEN LIKE THAT...
...NOT EVEN AN *ENEMY.*
AND... IF YOU'D DIED...
...I REALLY *WOULD* BE ALL ALONE-- NO COUNTRY, NO FRIENDS...
WE MAY BE ENEMIES, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN BEING *ALONE,* HMM?

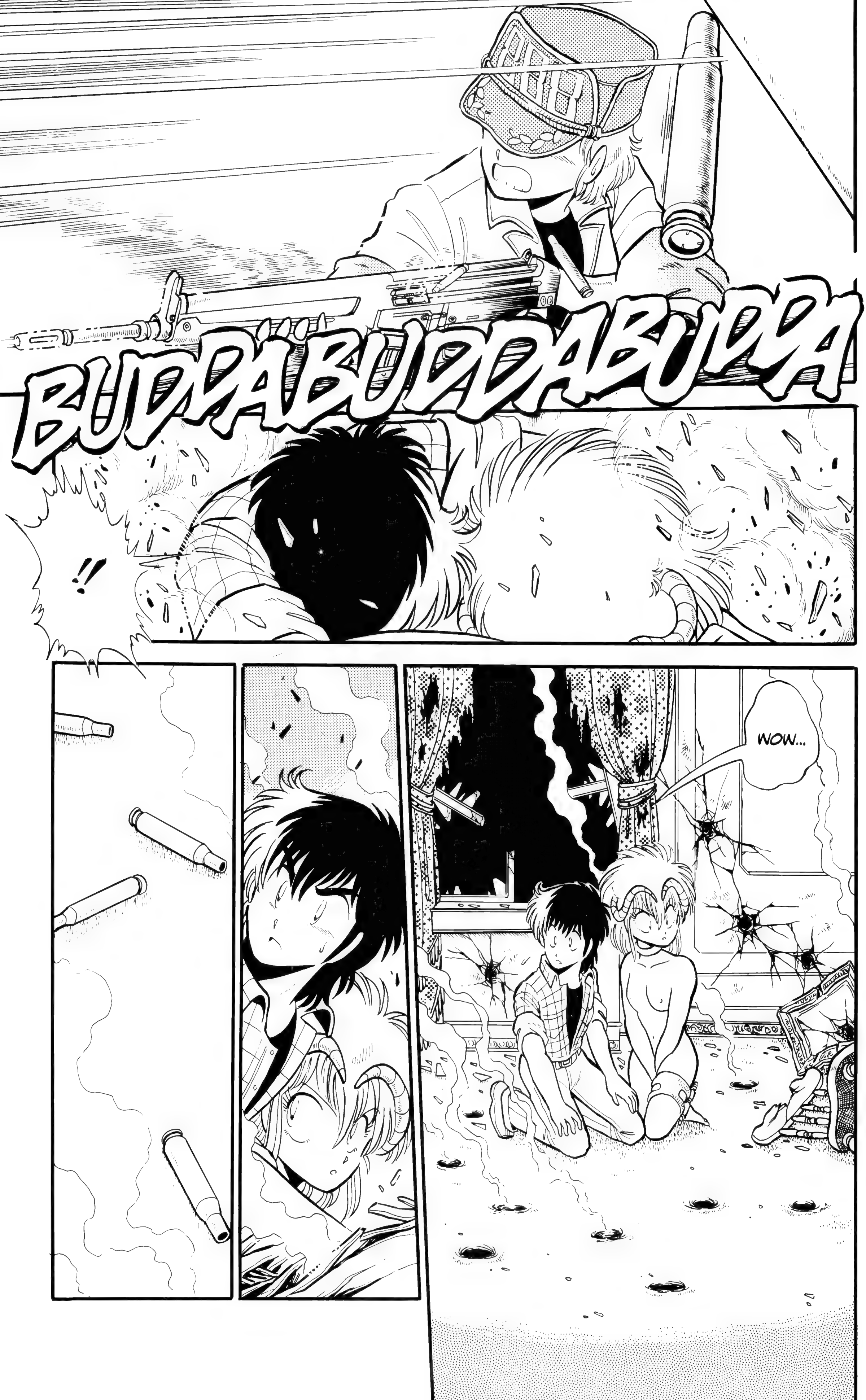

YAARG!!
I REMEMBER IT ALL NOW! WHERE IS SHE?!
WH-WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
THAT GIRL! THAT SCUM WHO BEAT ME!
YOU MEAN RAISA...?
OOOH! THAT BITCH! SHE'S PRETTY HOT WHEN HER VICTIM IS KNOCKED OUT AND TIED UP!
JUST WAIT UNTIL I SEE HER AGAIN!!
WHOA! WHOA! CALM DOWN ALREADY!
LET ME UP, YOU! I'LL--
NO YOU WON'T! JUST CALM DOWN, PLEA--
KCHIK
SORRY I'M LATE, TETSUYA!
I HAD TO SEARCH ALL OVER THE...
!!

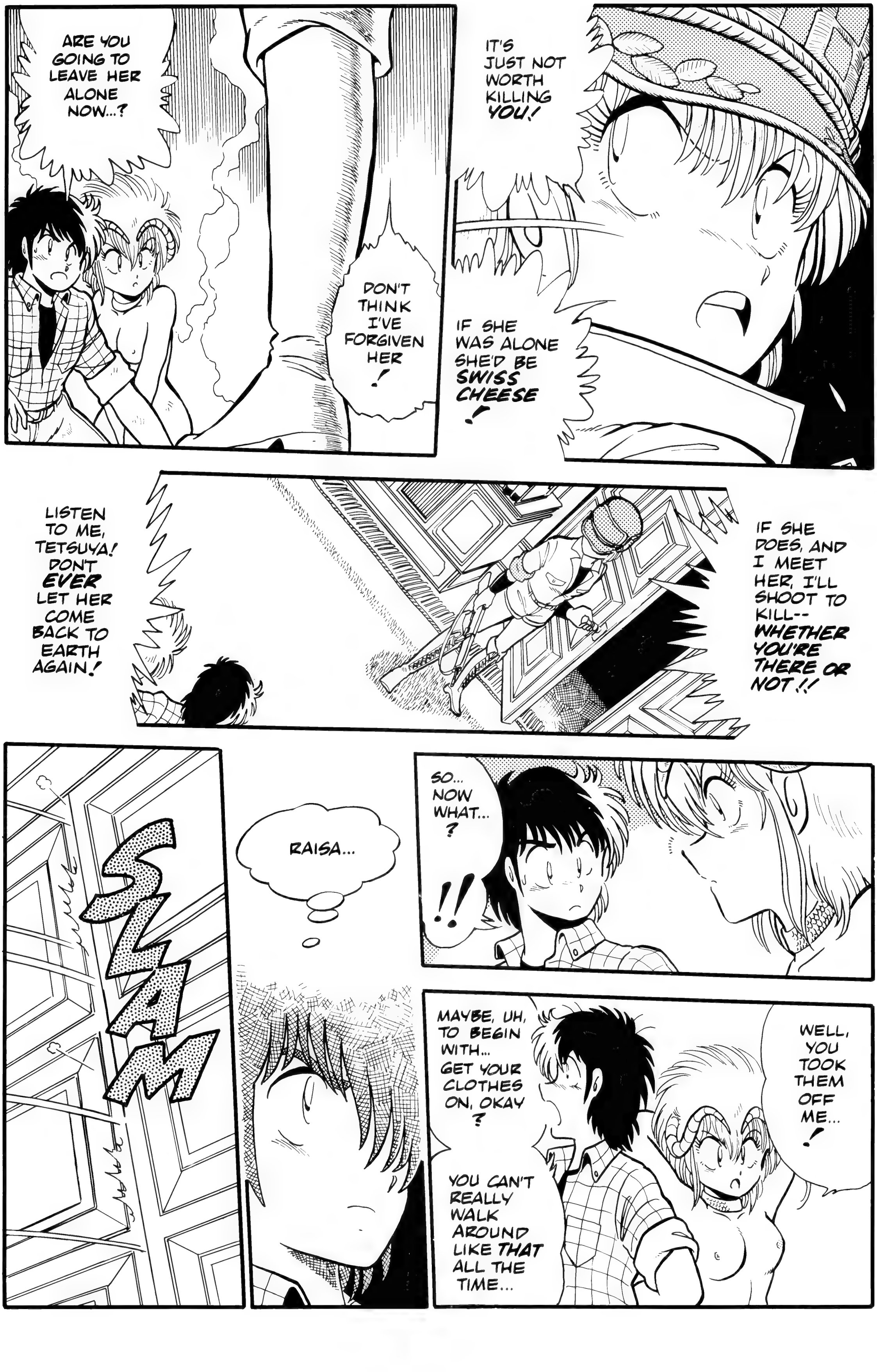

ER... HELLO...
Hmph.
SO YOU CAME TO, HUH?
THAT'S GOOD, I GUESS...
HERE-- CLOTHES! I JUST PICKED OUT STUFF THAT LOOKED LIKE IT MIGHT FIT YOU.
AH... THANKS...
fwmp
WHSST
?!
tmp

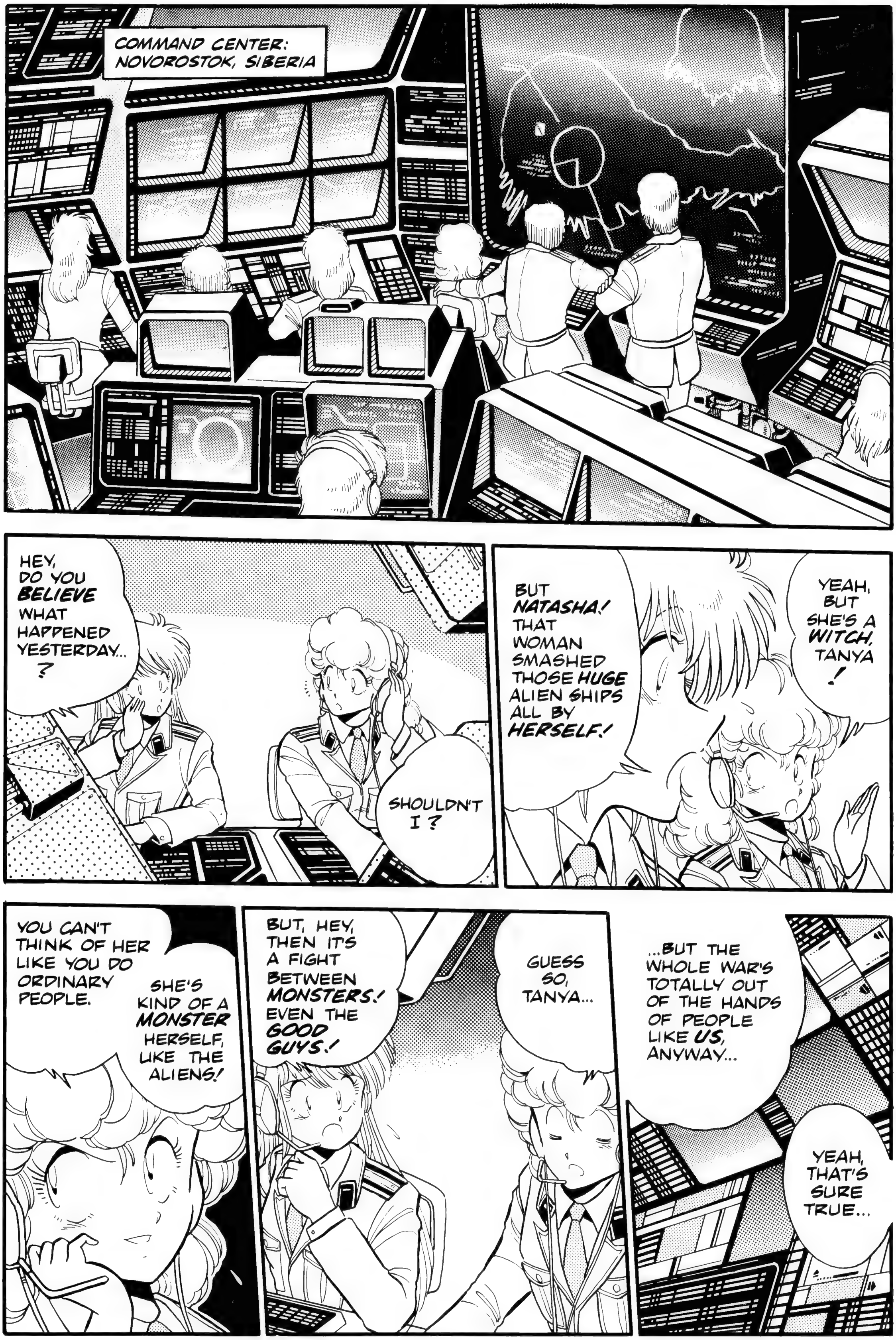

BUDDABUDDABUDDA
EEEEK!
KAHM!
WAIT! STOP!! RAISA, JUST COOL IT!
huhh
huhh
huhh
TETSUYA, LET ME--
KAHM, THINK! NUMBER ONE, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO DO STARK NAKED ?!

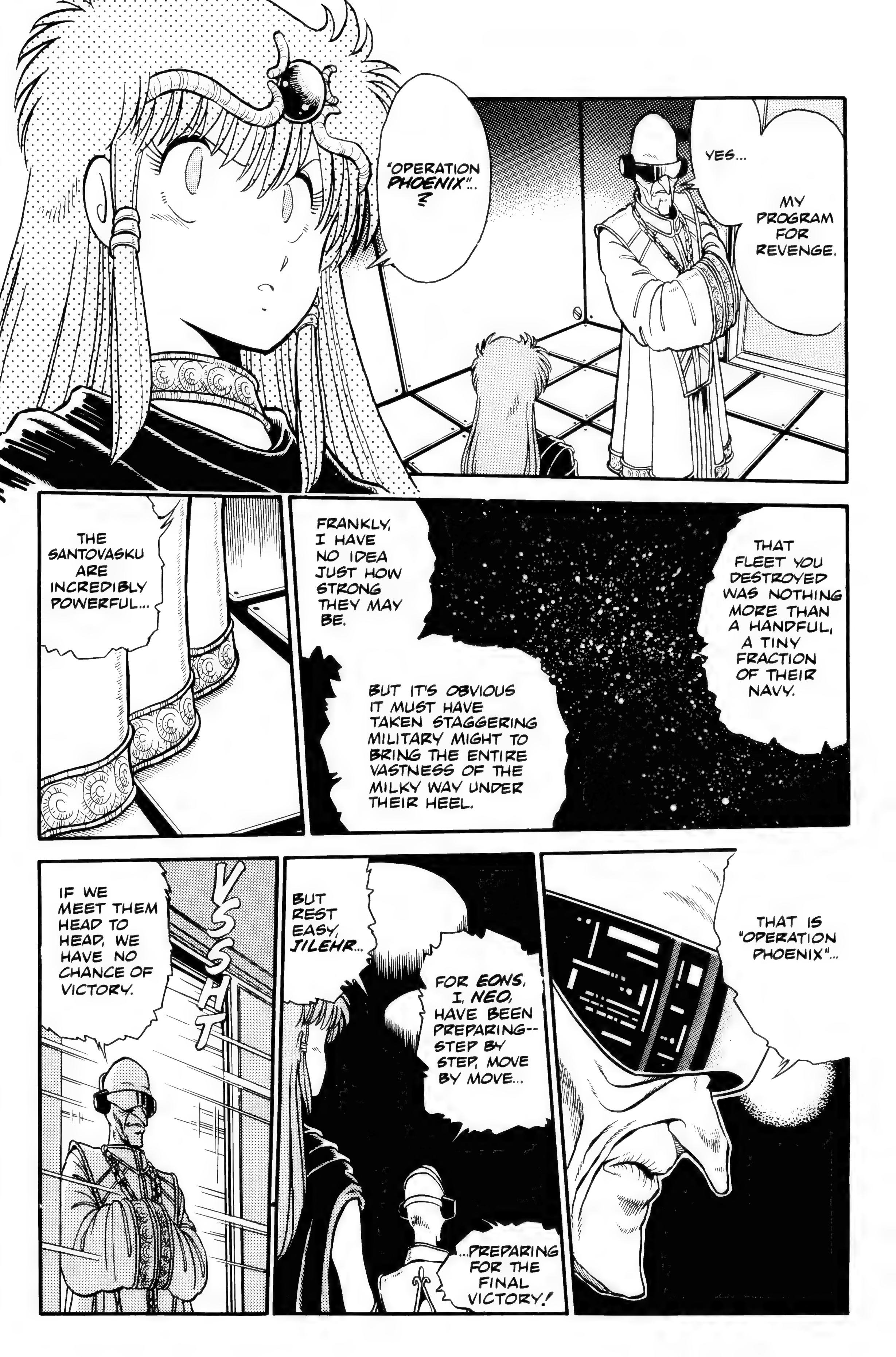

MOVE YOUR ASS, TETSUYA...
YOU WAIT A MINUTE, TOO!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU'D LET HER GO?
YEAH, WELL, THE SIGHT OF HER CHANGED MY MIND!
NOW... GET OUT OF MY WAY!!
RAISA...
GET OUT OF THE WAY OR I'LL SHOOT YOU, TOO!!
OH, YEAH?! THEN GO AHEAD! KILL US BOTH!!
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU...
I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND...
WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING HER...?
AN ALIEN... THE ENEMY!

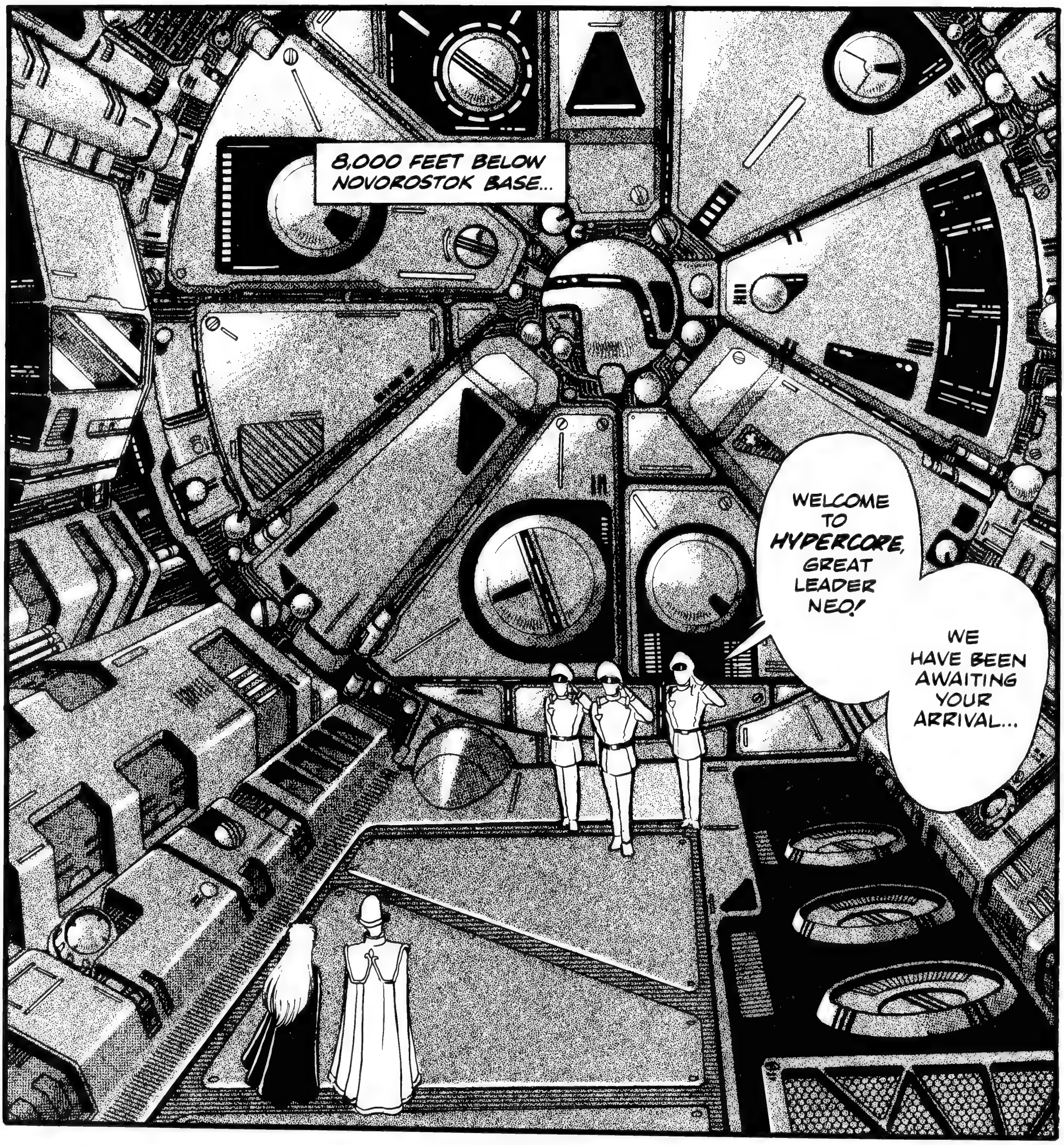

MY... MY ENTIRE FAMILY WAS KILLED BY HER MONSTERS...
EVEN MY LITTLE BROTHER... HE WAS ONLY TEN YEARS OLD...!
GOD DAMN IT !!
BUDDABUDDABUDDA
I **HATE** YOU! GET OUT OF THE WAY! ***MOVE*** !!
RAISA! STOP!

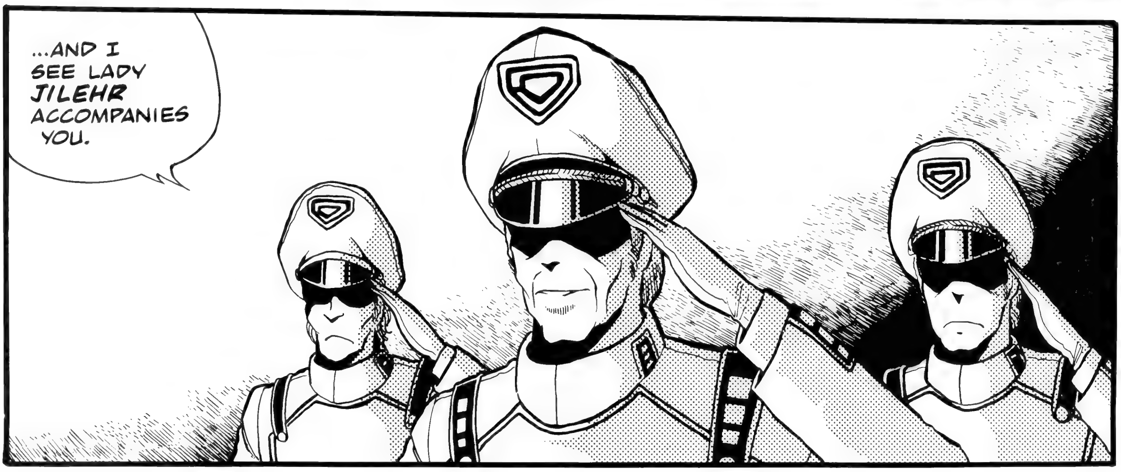

BUDDABUDDABUDDA
!!
WOW...

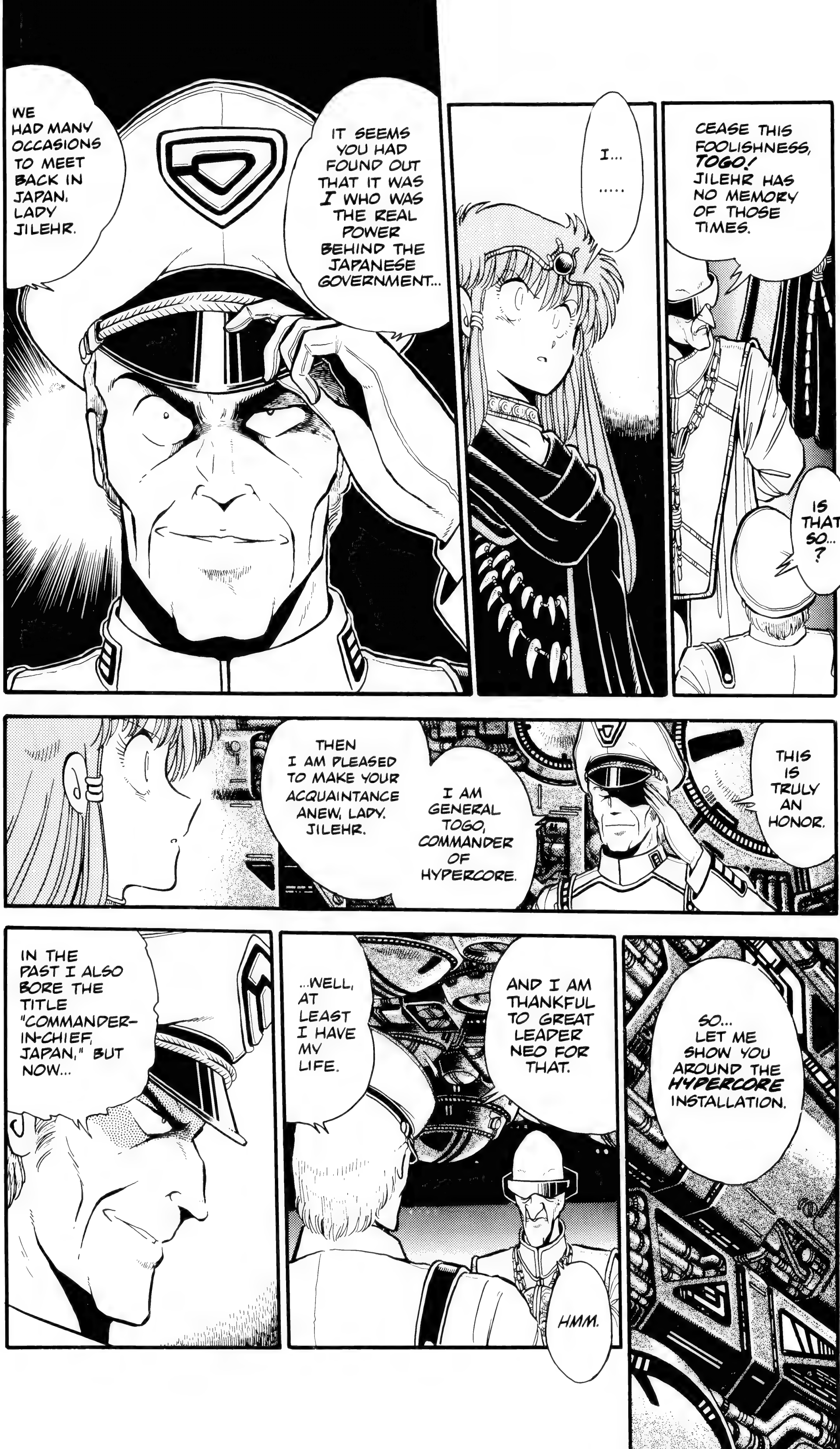

ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE HER ALONE NOW...?
DON'T THINK I'VE FORGIVEN HER!
IT'S JUST NOT WORTH KILLING *YOU*!
IF SHE WAS ALONE SHE'D BE **SWISS CHEESE**!
LISTEN TO ME, TETSUYA! DON'T **EVER** LET HER COME BACK TO EARTH AGAIN!
IF SHE DOES, AND I MEET HER, I'LL SHOOT TO KILL-- **WHETHER YOU'RE THERE OR NOT!!**
SWAM
RAISA...
SO... NOW WHAT...?
!!
MAYBE, UH, TO BEGIN WITH... GET YOUR CLOTHES ON, OKAY?
YOU CAN'T REALLY WALK AROUND LIKE *THAT* ALL THE TIME...
WELL, YOU TOOK THEM OFF ME...!

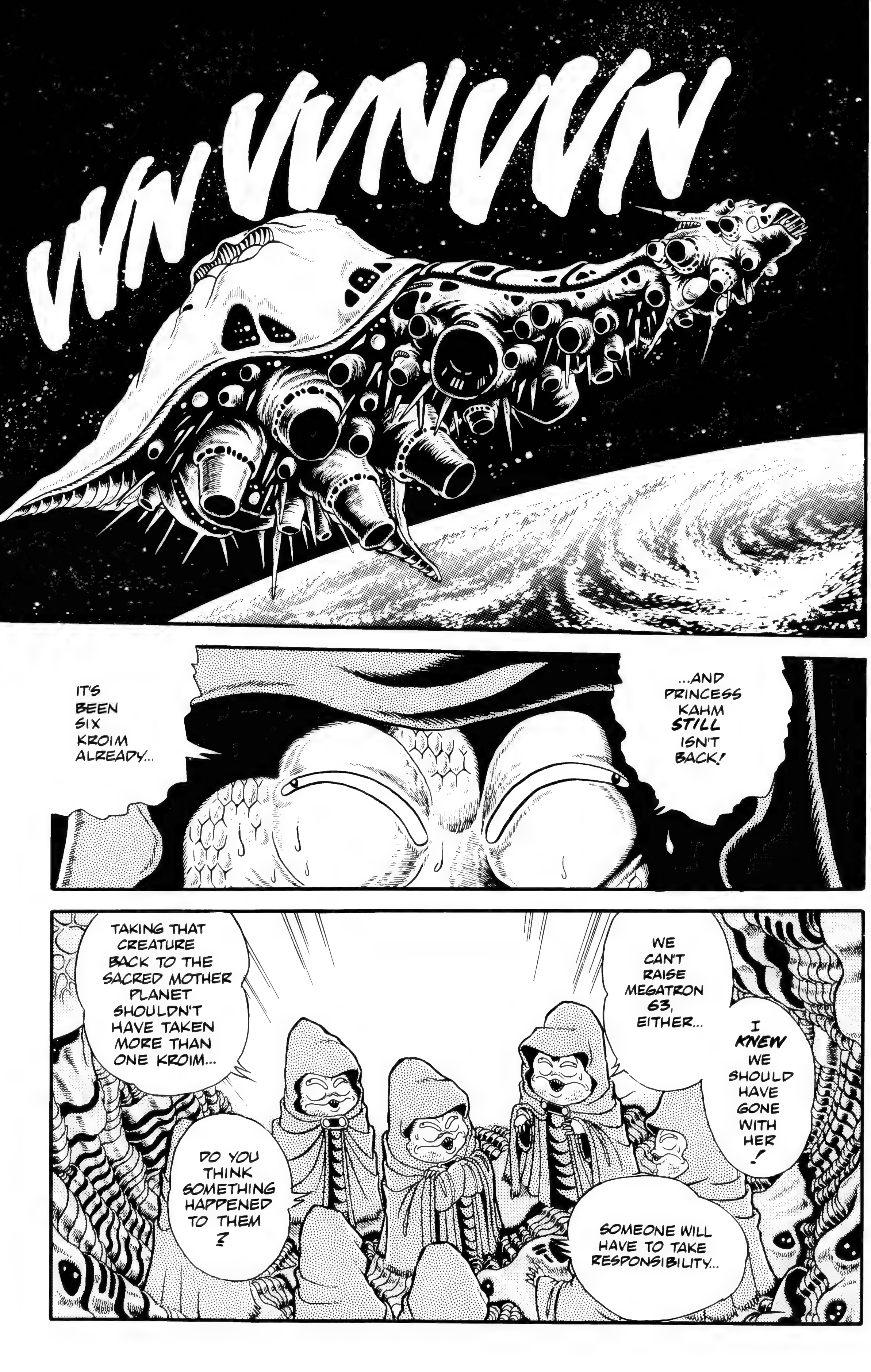

COMMAND CENTER: NOVOROSTOK, SIBERIA
HEY, DO YOU **BELIEVE** WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY...?
SHOULDN'T I?
BUT ***NATASHA!*** THAT WOMAN SMASHED THOSE ***HUGE*** ALIEN SHIPS ALL BY ***HERSELF!***
YEAH, BUT SHE'S A ***WITCH,*** TANYA!
YOU CAN'T THINK OF HER LIKE YOU DO ORDINARY PEOPLE.
SHE'S KIND OF A ***MONSTER*** HERSELF, LIKE THE ALIENS!
BUT, HEY, THEN IT'S A FIGHT BETWEEN ***MONSTERS!*** EVEN THE ***GOOD GUYS!***
GUESS SO, TANYA...
...BUT THE WHOLE WAR'S TOTALLY OUT OF THE HANDS OF PEOPLE LIKE ***US,*** ANYWAY...
YEAH, THAT'S SURE TRUE...

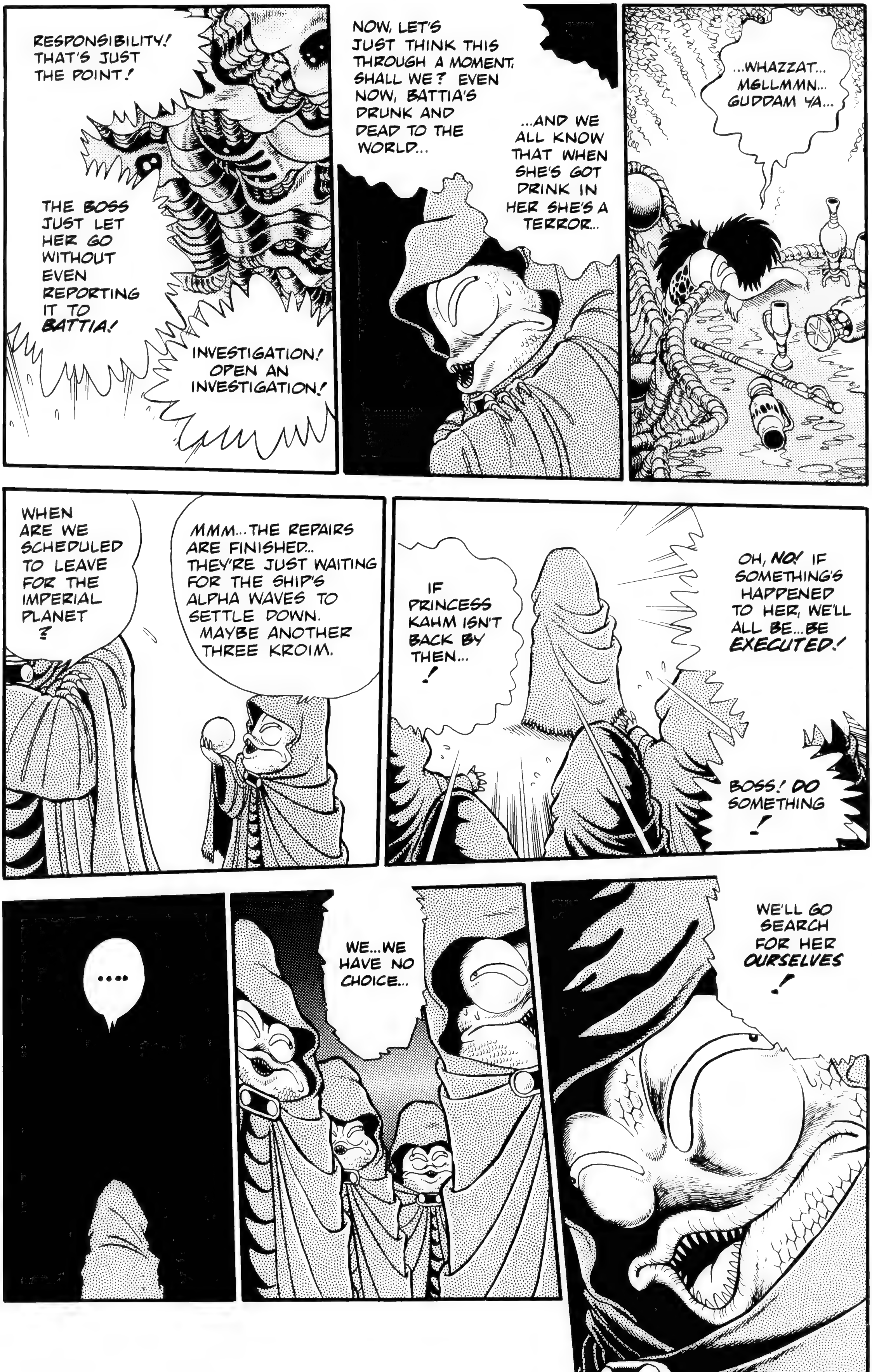

"OPERATION PHOENIX"...?
YES... MY PROGRAM FOR REVENGE.
THE SANTOVASKU ARE INCREDIBLY POWERFUL...
FRANKLY, I HAVE NO IDEA JUST HOW STRONG THEY MAY BE.
THAT FLEET YOU DESTROYED WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A HANDFUL, A TINY FRACTION OF THEIR NAVY.
BUT IT'S OBVIOUS IT MUST HAVE TAKEN STAGGERING MILITARY MIGHT TO BRING THE ENTIRE VASTNESS OF THE MILKY WAY UNDER THEIR HEEL.
IF WE MEET THEM HEAD TO HEAD, WE HAVE NO CHANCE OF VICTORY.
VSSHT
BUT REST EASY, JILEHR...
FOR EONS, I, NEO, HAVE BEEN PREPARING-- STEP BY STEP, MOVE BY MOVE...
...PREPARING FOR THE FINAL VICTORY!
THAT IS "OPERATION PHOENIX"...

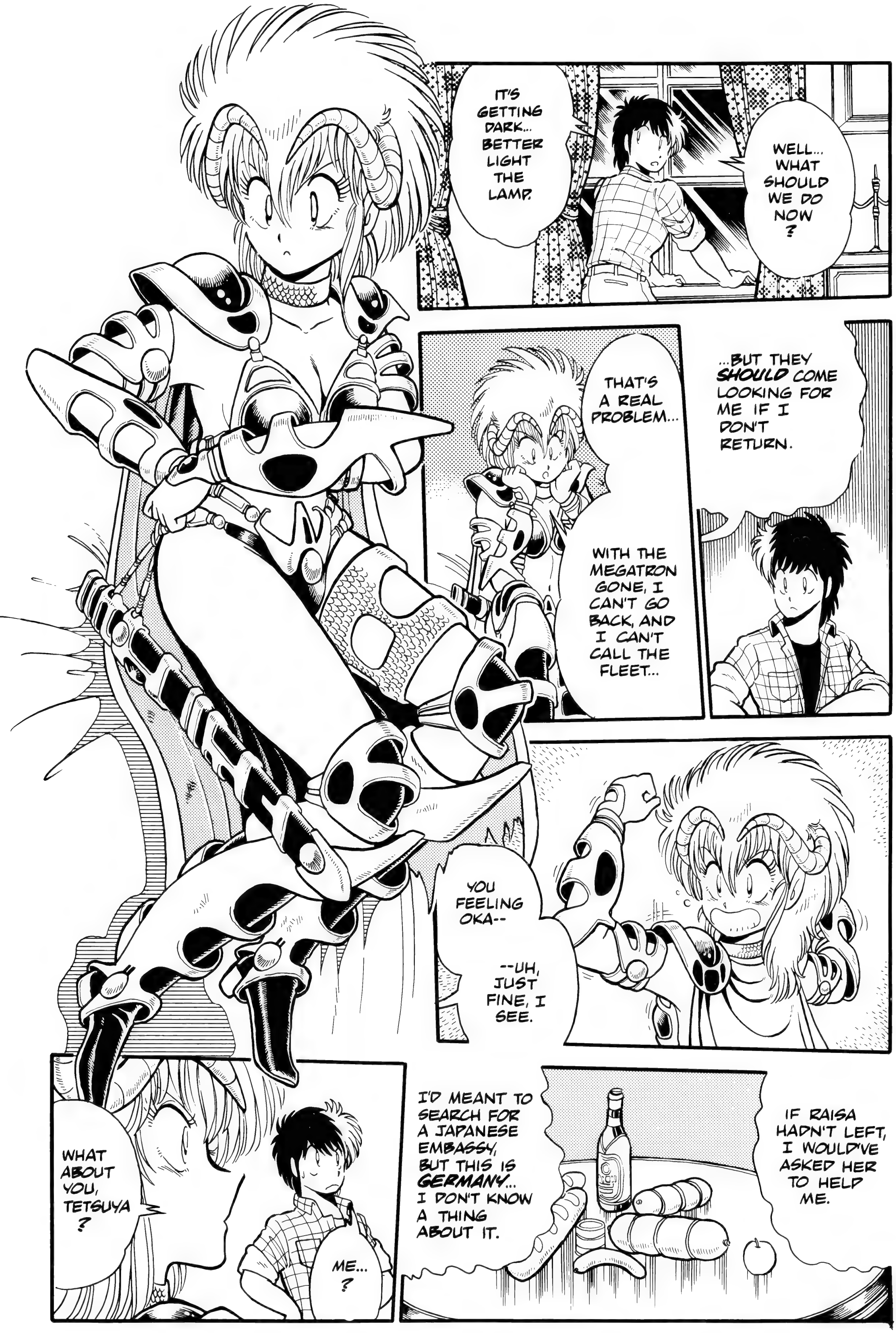

8,000 FEET BELOW NOVOROSTOK BASE...
WELCOME TO **HYPERCORE**, GREAT LEADER NEO!
WE HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL...

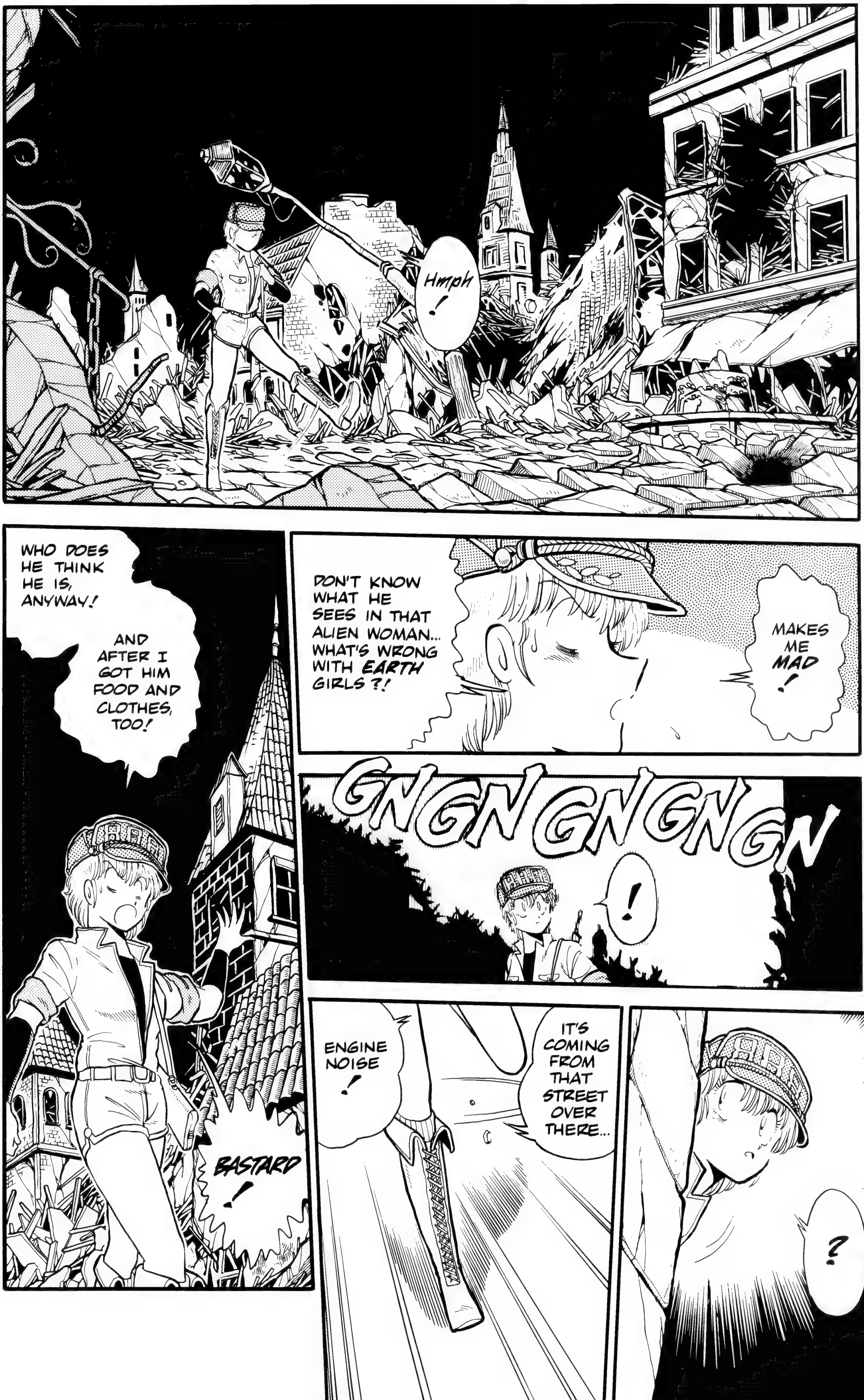

...AND I SEE LADY **JILEHR** ACCOMPANIES YOU.

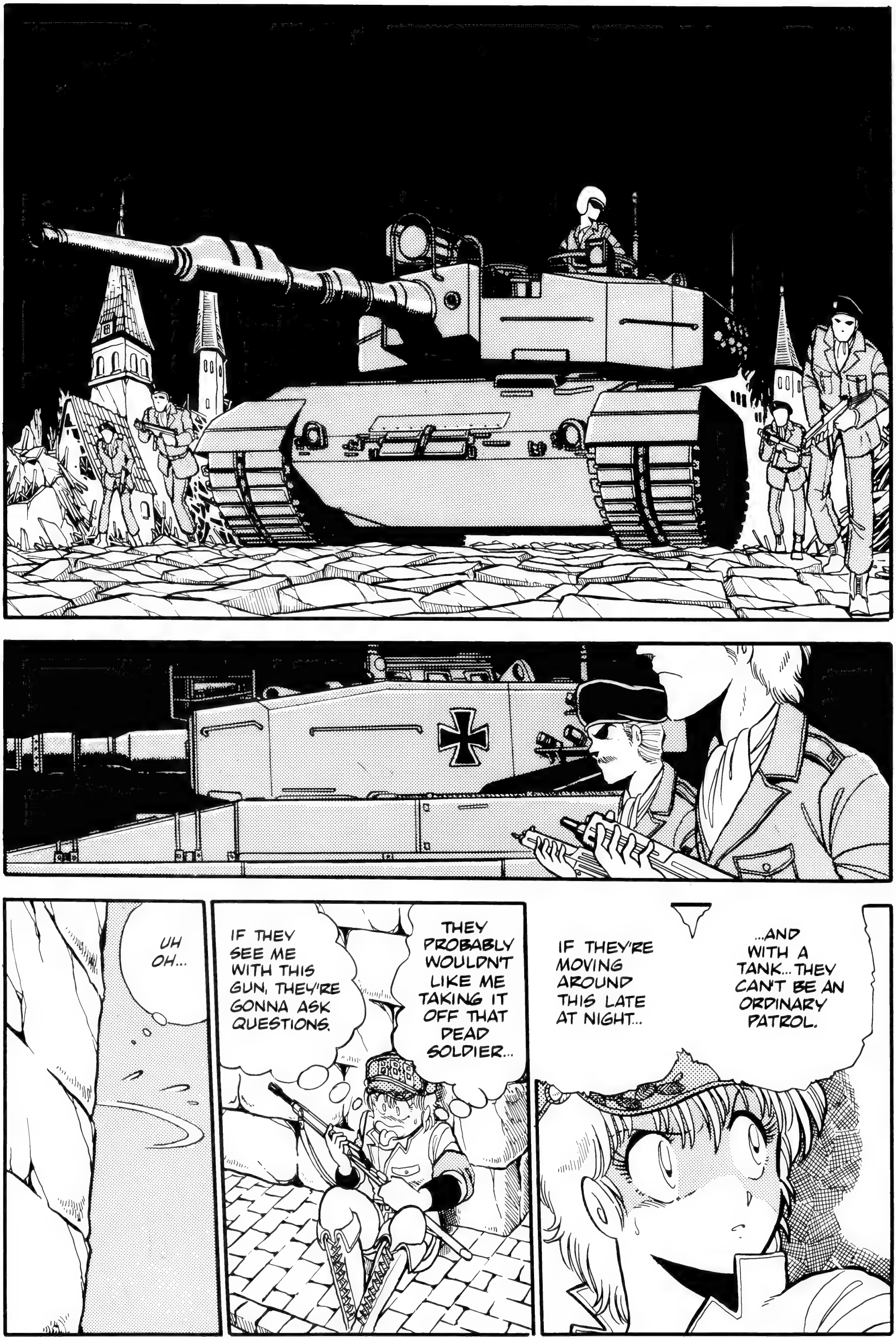

WE HAD MANY OCCASIONS TO MEET BACK IN JAPAN, LADY JILEHR.
IT SEEMS YOU HAD FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS *I* WHO WAS THE REAL POWER BEHIND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT...
I... .....
CEASE THIS FOOLISHNESS, ***TOGO!*** JILEHR HAS NO MEMORY OF THOSE TIMES.
IS THAT SO...?
THEN I AM PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE ANEW, LADY JILEHR.
I AM GENERAL TOGO, COMMANDER OF HYPERCORE.
THIS IS TRULY AN HONOR.
IN THE PAST I ALSO BORE THE TITLE "COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, JAPAN," BUT NOW...
...WELL, AT LEAST I HAVE MY LIFE.
AND I AM THANKFUL TO GREAT LEADER NEO FOR THAT.
HMM.
SO... LET ME SHOW YOU AROUND THE ***HYPERCORE*** INSTALLATION.

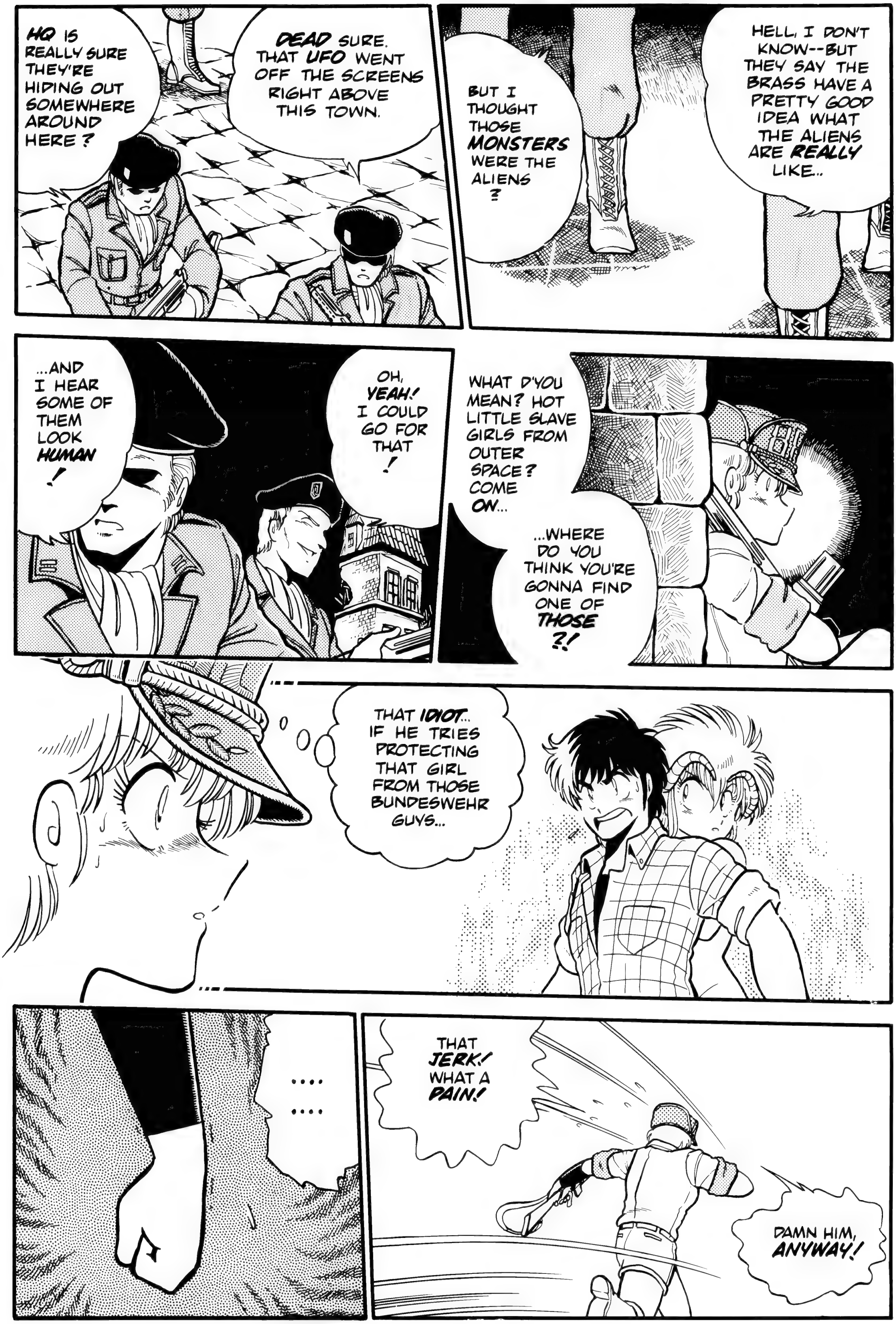

VVNVVNVVVN
IT'S BEEN SIX KROIM ALREADY...
...AND PRINCESS KAHM STILL ISN'T BACK!
TAKING THAT CREATURE BACK TO THE SACRED MOTHER PLANET SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MORE THAN ONE KROIM...
WE CAN'T RAISE MEGATRON 63, EITHER...
I KNEW WE SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH HER!
DO YOU THINK SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THEM?
SOMEONE WILL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY...

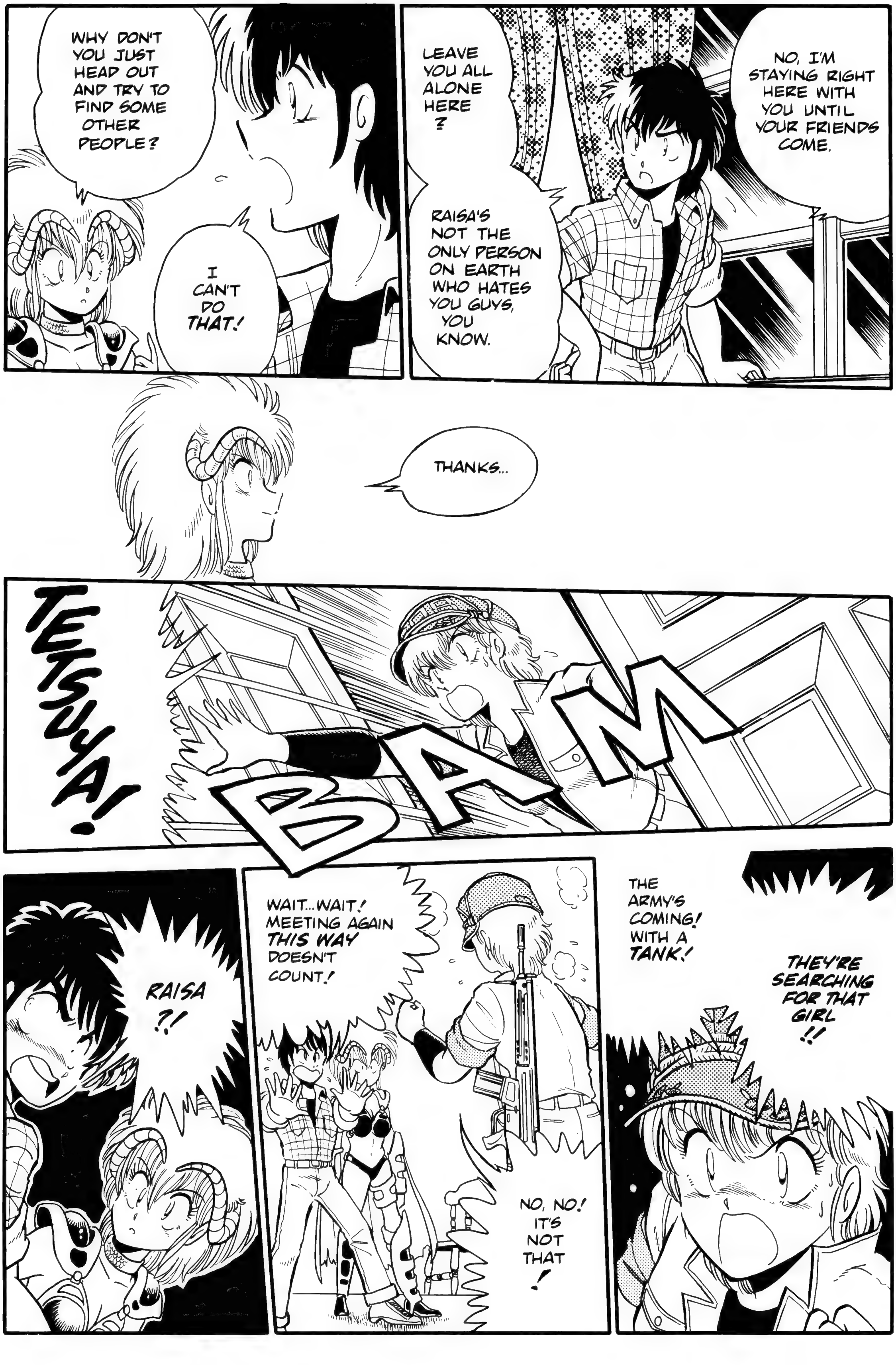

RESPONSIBILITY! THAT'S JUST THE POINT!
THE BOSS JUST LET HER GO WITHOUT EVEN REPORTING IT TO BATTIA!
INVESTIGATION! OPEN AN INVESTIGATION!
NOW, LET'S JUST THINK THIS THROUGH A MOMENT, SHALL WE? EVEN NOW, BATTIA'S DRUNK AND DEAD TO THE WORLD...
...AND WE ALL KNOW THAT WHEN SHE'S GOT DRINK IN HER SHE'S A TERROR...
...WHAZZAT... MGLLMMN... GUDDAM YA...
WHEN ARE WE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR THE IMPERIAL PLANET?
MMM... THE REPAIRS ARE FINISHED... THEY'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE SHIP'S ALPHA WAVES TO SETTLE DOWN. MAYBE ANOTHER THREE KROIM.
IF PRINCESS KAHM ISN'T BACK BY THEN...!
OH, NO! IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HER, WE'LL ALL BE... BE EXECUTED!
BOSS! DO SOMETHING!
....
WE... WE HAVE NO CHOICE...
WE'LL GO SEARCH FOR HER OURSELVES!

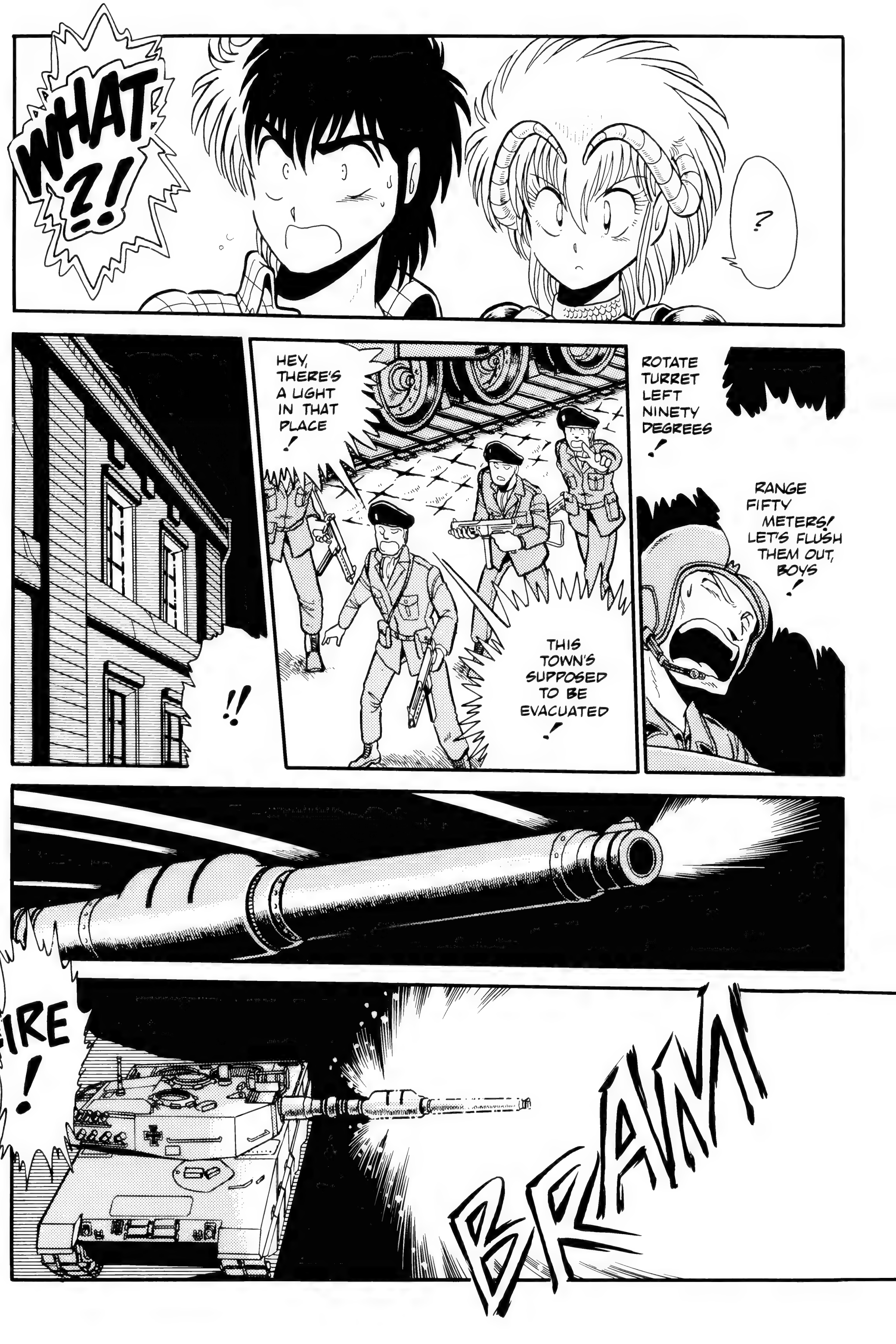

IT'S GETTING DARK... BETTER LIGHT THE LAMP.
WELL... WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
THAT'S A REAL PROBLEM...
WITH THE MEGATRON GONE, I CAN'T GO BACK, AND I CAN'T CALL THE FLEET...
...BUT THEY *SHOULD* COME LOOKING FOR ME IF I DON'T RETURN.
YOU FEELING OKA--
--UH, JUST FINE, I SEE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TETSUYA?
ME...?
I'D MEANT TO SEARCH FOR A JAPANESE EMBASSY, BUT THIS IS *GERMANY*... I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT.
IF RAISA HADN'T LEFT, I WOULD'VE ASKED HER TO HELP ME.

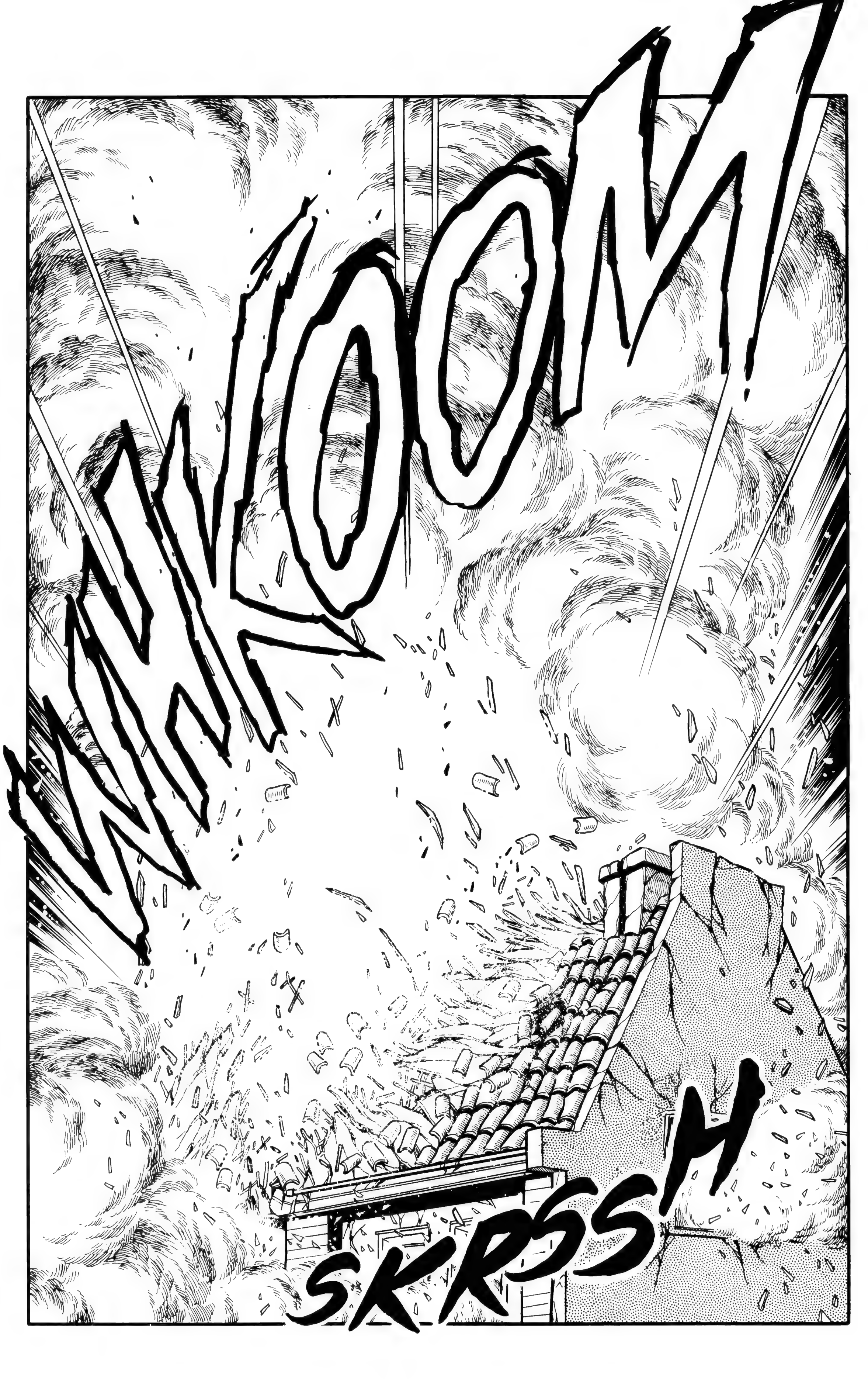

Hmph!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS, ANYWAY!
AND AFTER I GOT HIM FOOD AND CLOTHES, TOO!
BASTARD!
DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SEES IN THAT ALIEN WOMAN... WHAT'S WRONG WITH EARTH GIRLS?!
MAKES ME MAD!
GNGNGNGNGNGN
!
ENGINE NOISE!
IT'S COMING FROM THAT STREET OVER THERE...
?


UH OH...
IF THEY SEE ME WITH THIS GUN, THEY'RE GONNA ASK QUESTIONS.
THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T LIKE ME TAKING IT OFF THAT DEAD SOLDIER...
IF THEY'RE MOVING AROUND THIS LATE AT NIGHT...
...AND WITH A TANK... THEY CAN'T BE AN ORDINARY PATROL.

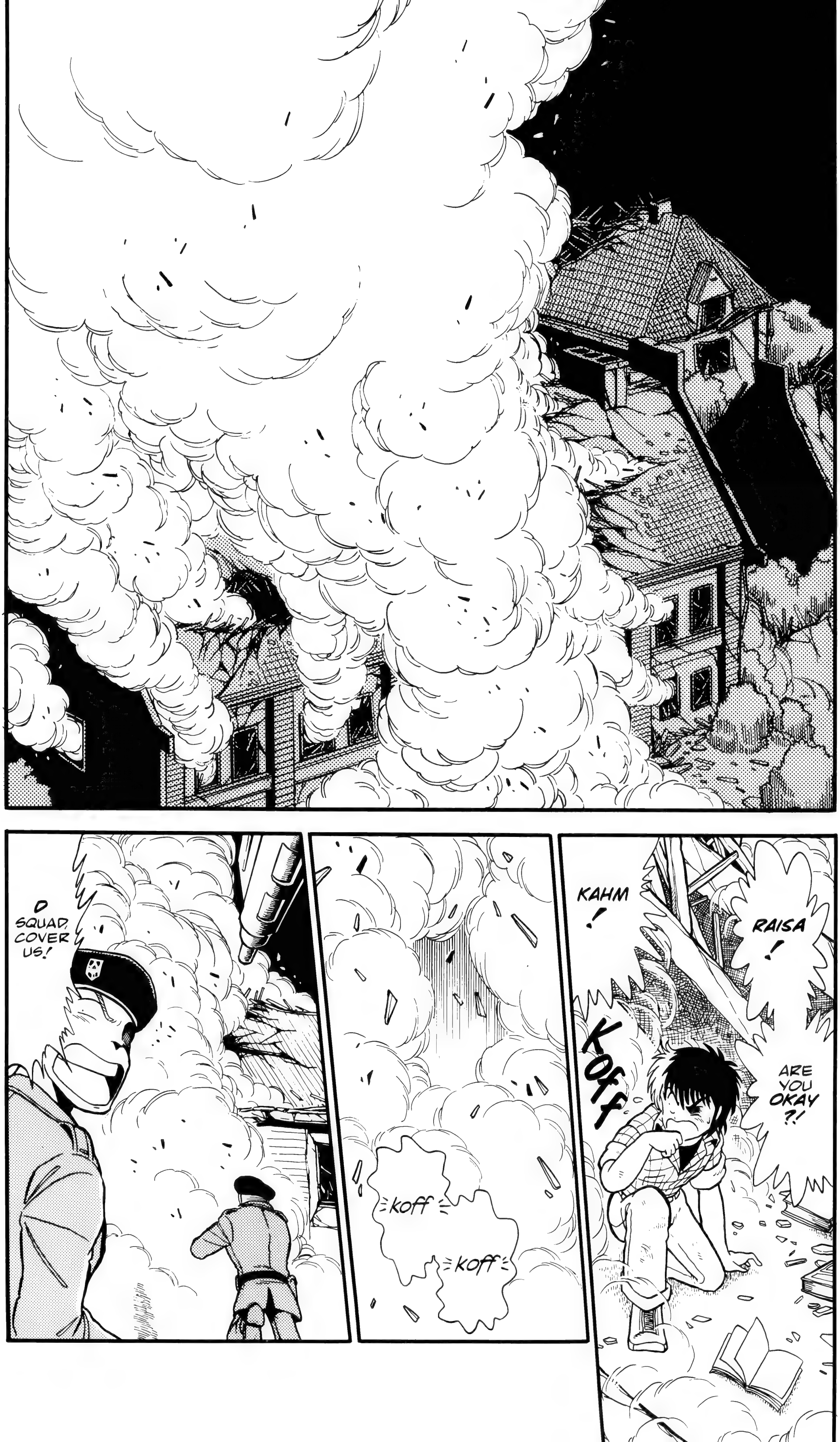

HQ IS REALLY SURE THEY'RE HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE?
DEAD SURE. THAT UFO WENT OFF THE SCREENS RIGHT ABOVE THIS TOWN.
BUT I THOUGHT THOSE MONSTERS WERE THE ALIENS?
HELL, I DON'T KNOW--BUT THEY SAY THE BRASS HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHAT THE ALIENS ARE REALLY LIKE...
...AND I HEAR SOME OF THEM LOOK HUMAN!
OH, YEAH! I COULD GO FOR THAT!
WHAT D'YOU MEAN? HOT LITTLE SLAVE GIRLS FROM OUTER SPACE? COME ON...
...WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA FIND ONE OF THOSE?!
THAT IDIOT... IF HE TRIES PROTECTING THAT GIRL FROM THOSE BUNDESWEHR GUYS...
....
....
THAT JERK! WHAT A PAIN!
DAMN HIM, ANYWAY!

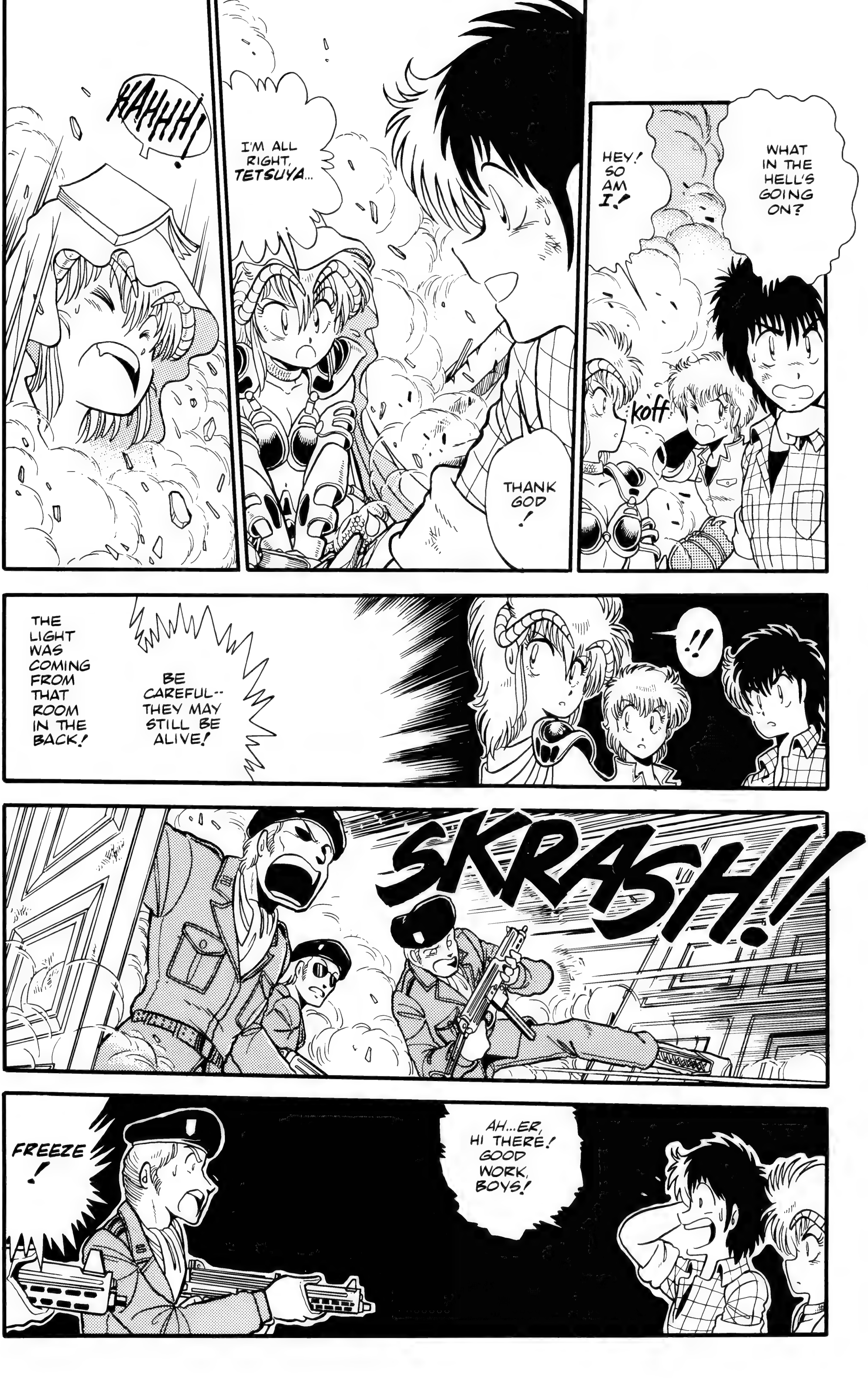

WHY DON'T YOU JUST HEAD OUT AND TRY TO FIND SOME OTHER PEOPLE?
I CAN'T DO *THAT!*
LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE HERE?
RAISA'S NOT THE ONLY PERSON ON EARTH WHO HATES YOU GUYS, YOU KNOW.
NO, I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE WITH YOU UNTIL YOUR FRIENDS COME.
THANKS...
TETSUYA!
BAM
RAISA?!
WAIT...WAIT! MEETING AGAIN *THIS WAY* DOESN'T COUNT!
NO, NO! IT'S NOT THAT!
THE ARMY'S COMING! WITH A *TANK!*
THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR THAT GIRL!!

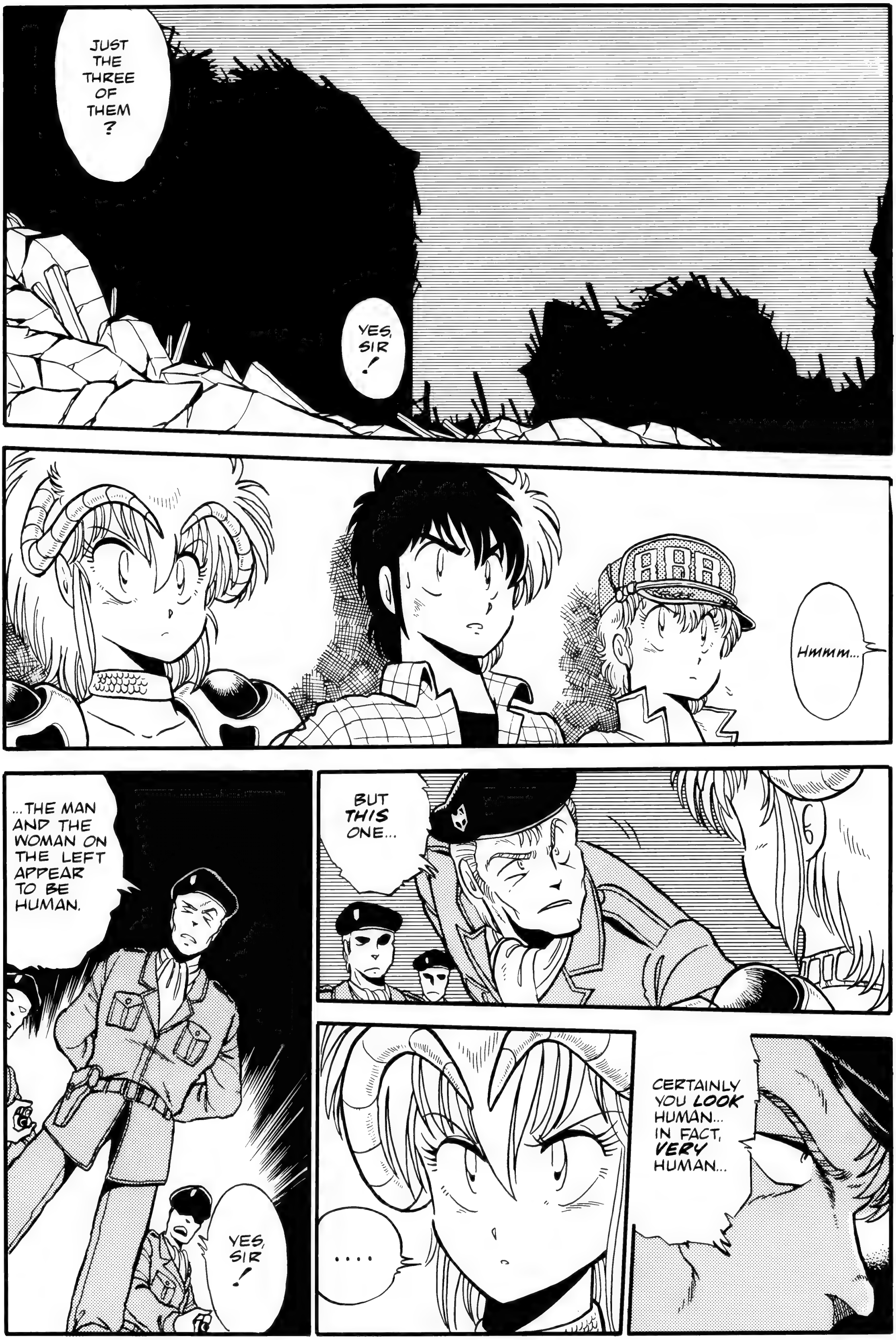

WHAT?!
?
!!
HEY, THERE'S A LIGHT IN THAT PLACE!
THIS TOWN'S SUPPOSED TO BE EVACUATED!
ROTATE TURRET LEFT NINETY DEGREES!
RANGE FIFTY METERS! LET'S FLUSH THEM OUT, BOYS!
FIRE!
BRAAM

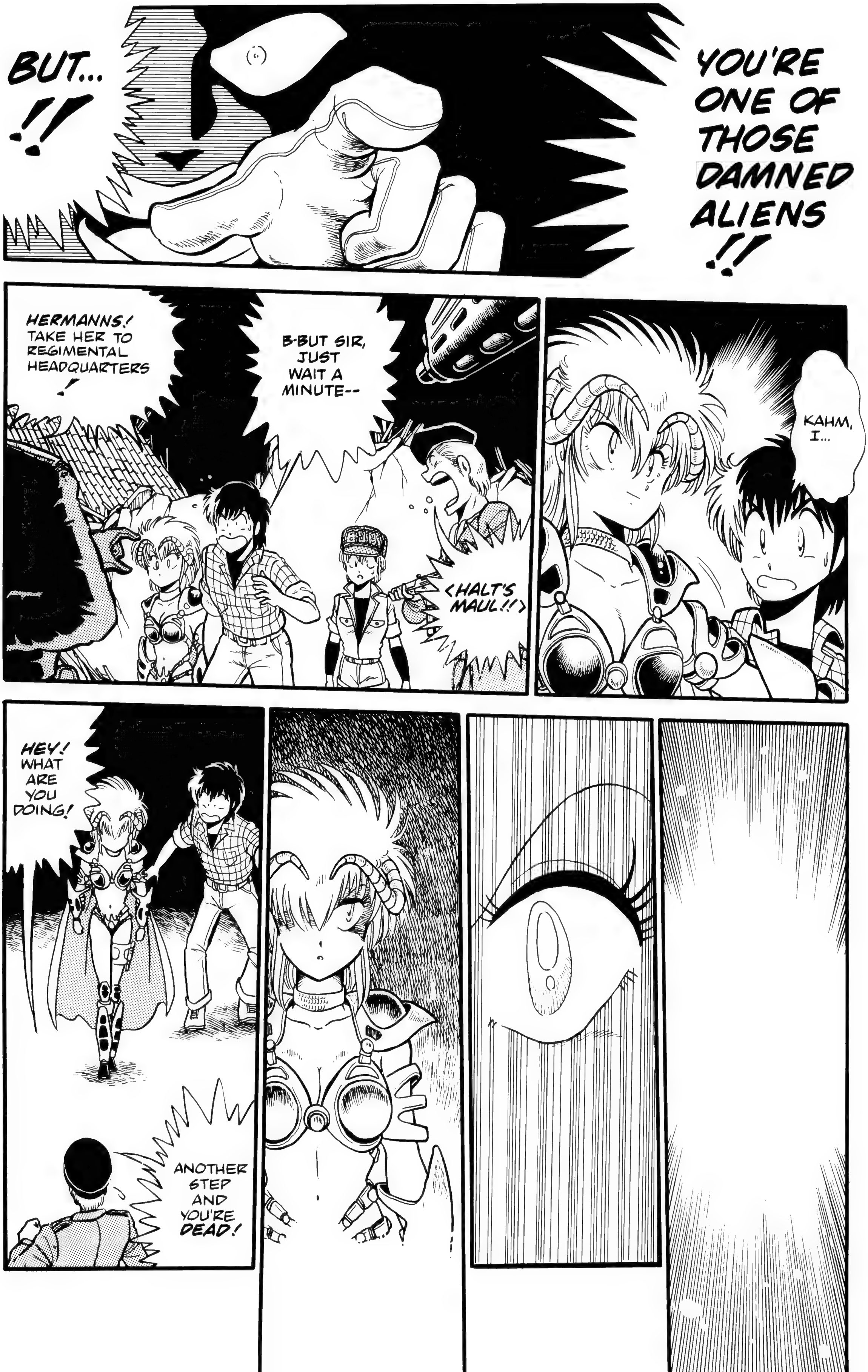

WHKOOM!
SKRSSH

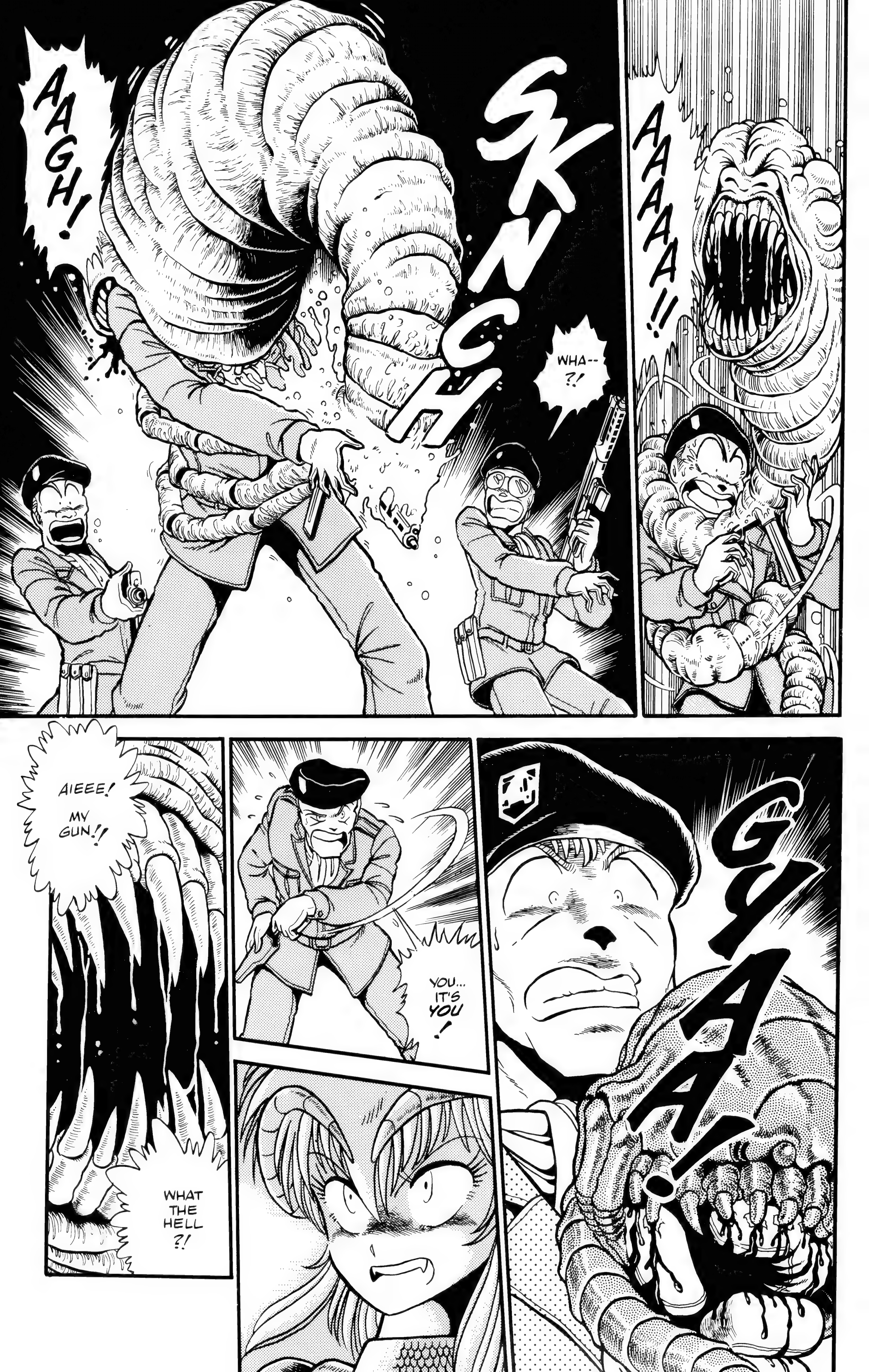
CHAPTER 8

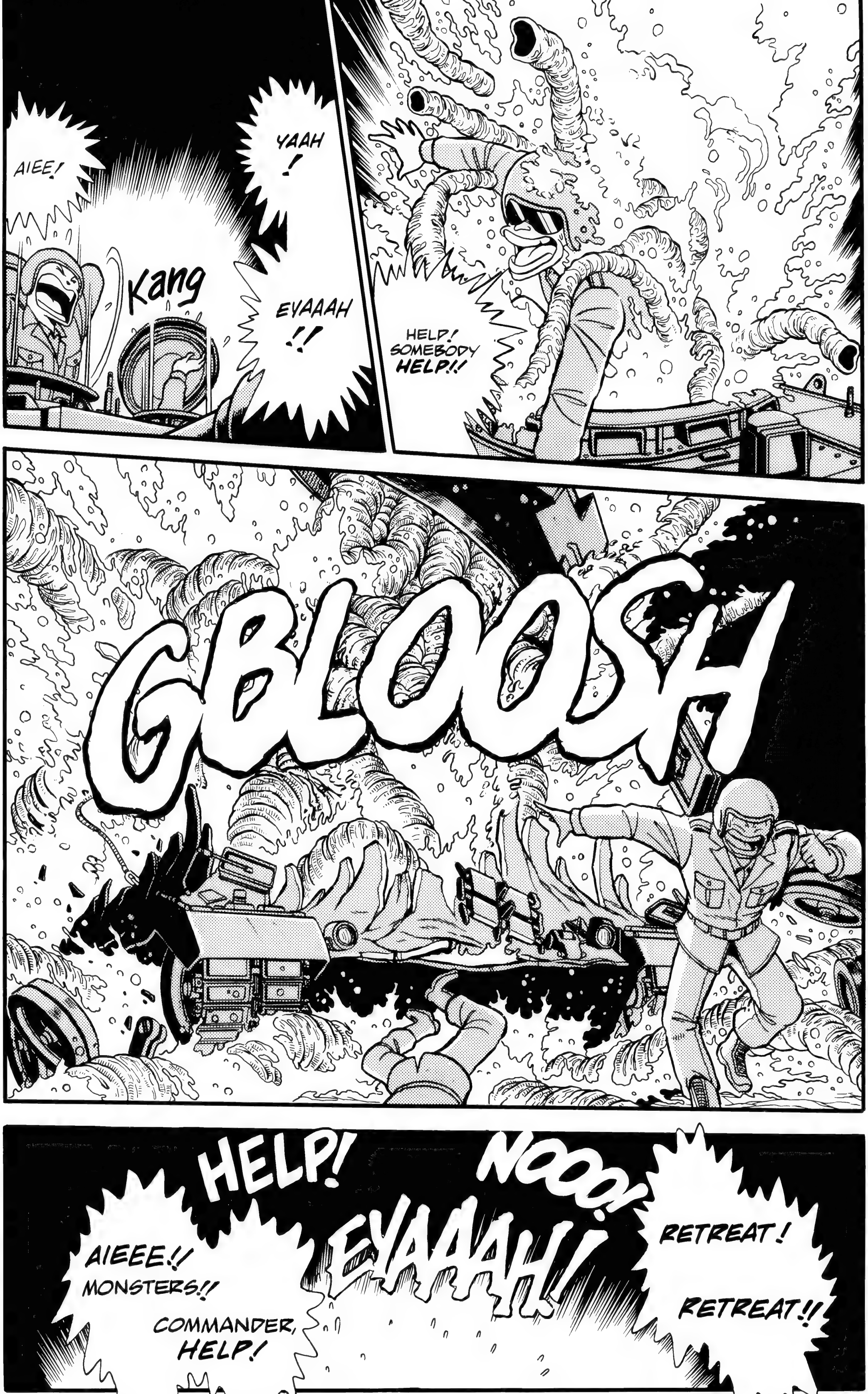

D SQUAD, COVER US!
koff
koff
KAHM!
RAISA!
KOFF
ARE YOU OKAY ?!

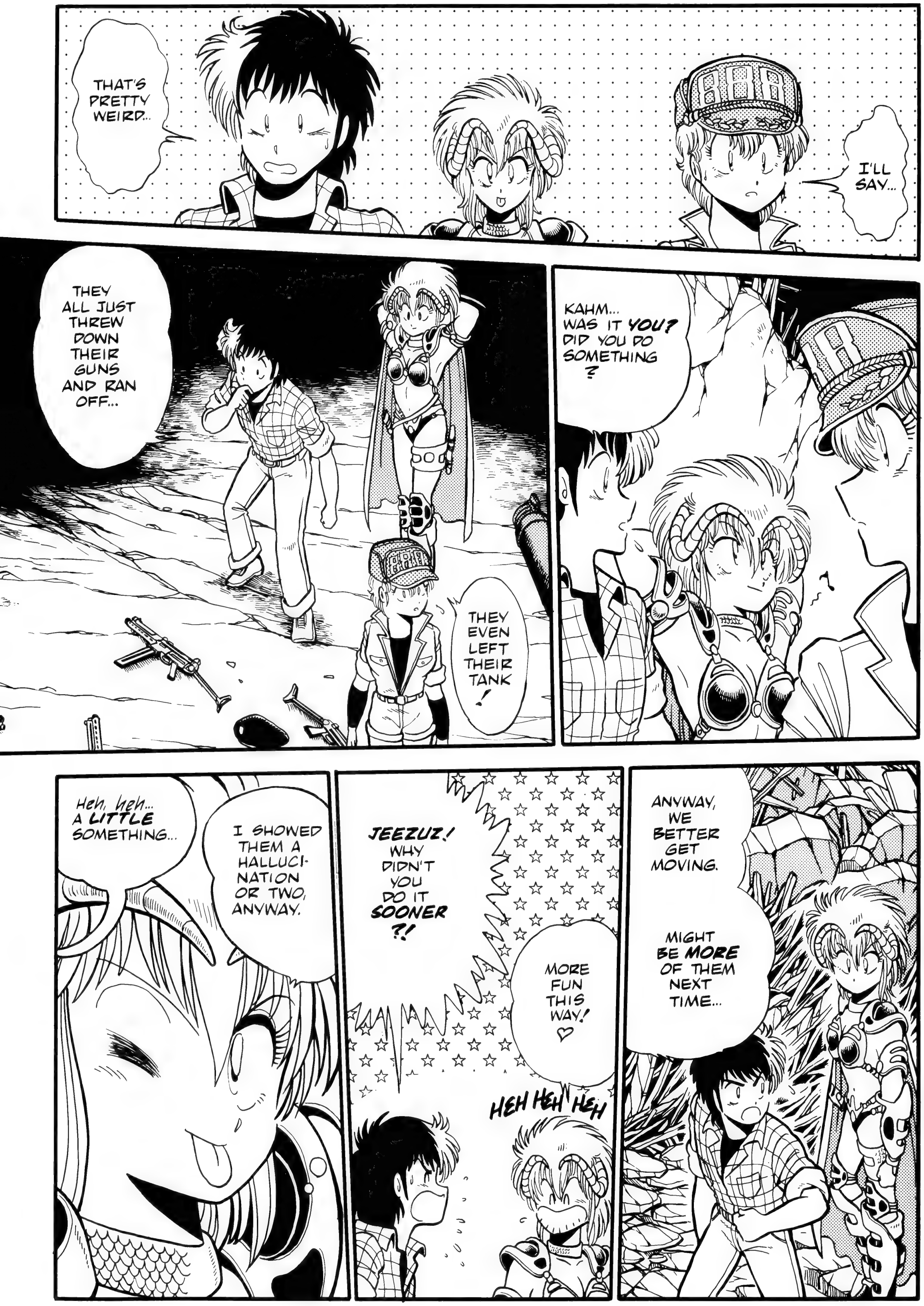

KAHHH!
I'M ALL RIGHT, TETSUYA...
THANK GOD!
HEY! SO AM I!
koff
WHAT IN THE HELL'S GOING ON?
THE LIGHT WAS COMING FROM THAT ROOM IN THE BACK!
BE CAREFUL-- THEY MAY STILL BE ALIVE!
!!
SKRASH!
FREEZE!
AH...ER, HI THERE! GOOD WORK, BOYS!

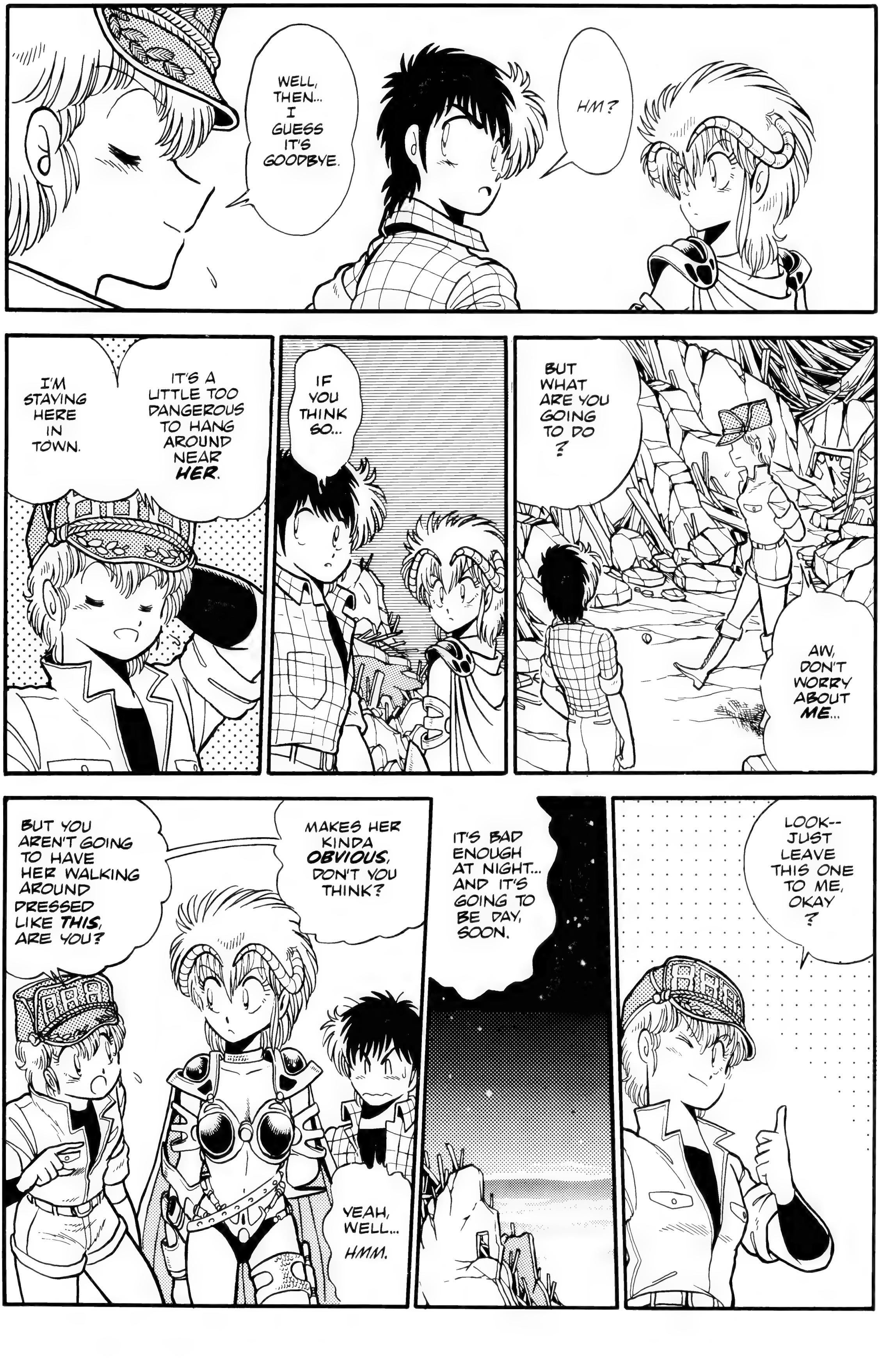

JUST THE THREE OF THEM?
YES, SIR!
Hmmm...
...THE MAN AND THE WOMAN ON THE LEFT APPEAR TO BE HUMAN.
YES, SIR!
BUT THIS ONE...
....
CERTAINLY YOU LOOK HUMAN... IN FACT, VERY HUMAN...

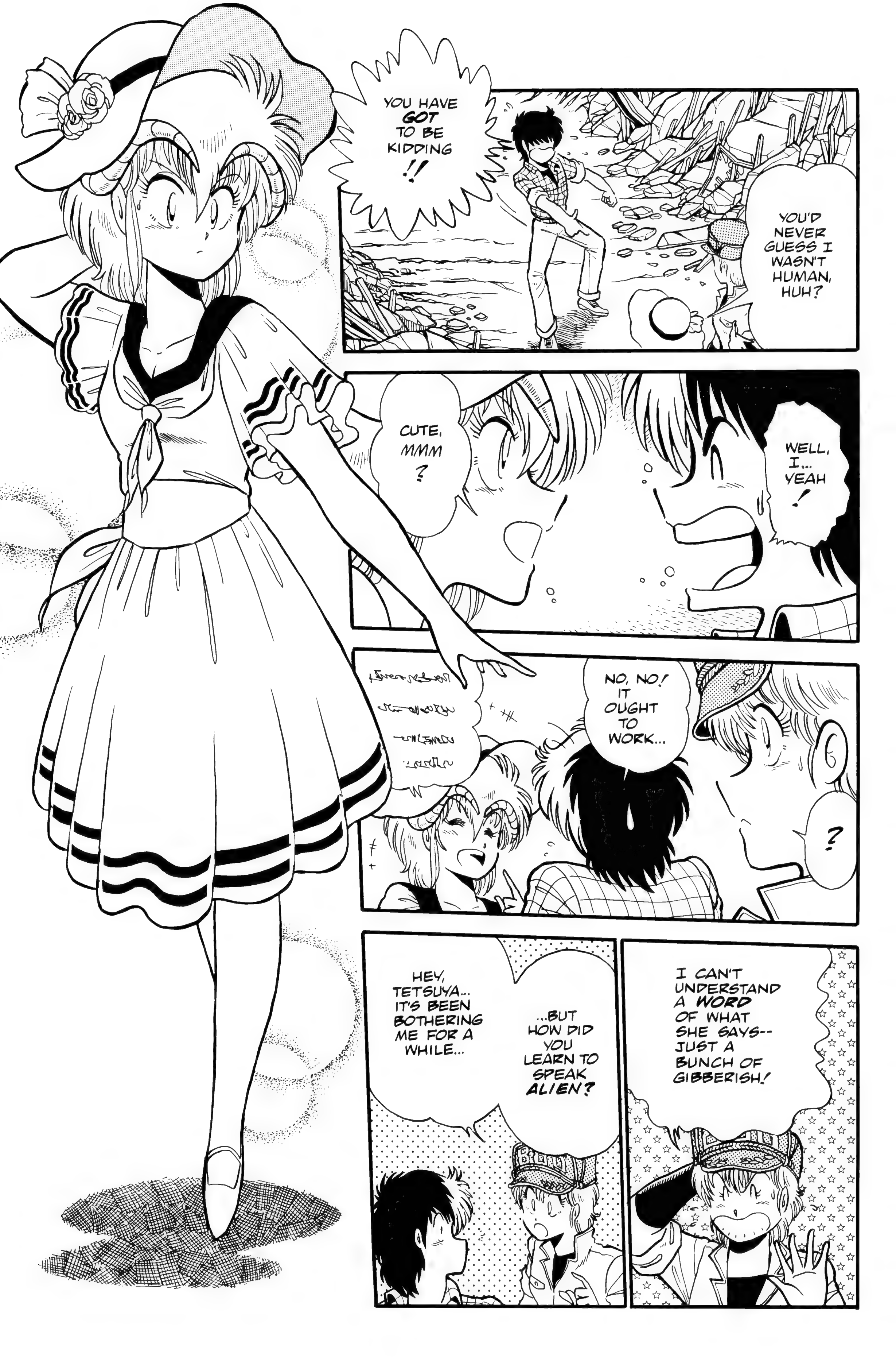

BUT... !!
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE DAMNED ALIENS !!
HERMANNS! TAKE HER TO REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS!
B-BUT SIR, JUST WAIT A MINUTE--
<HALT'S MAUL!!>
KAHM, I...
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
ANOTHER STEP AND YOU'RE DEAD!

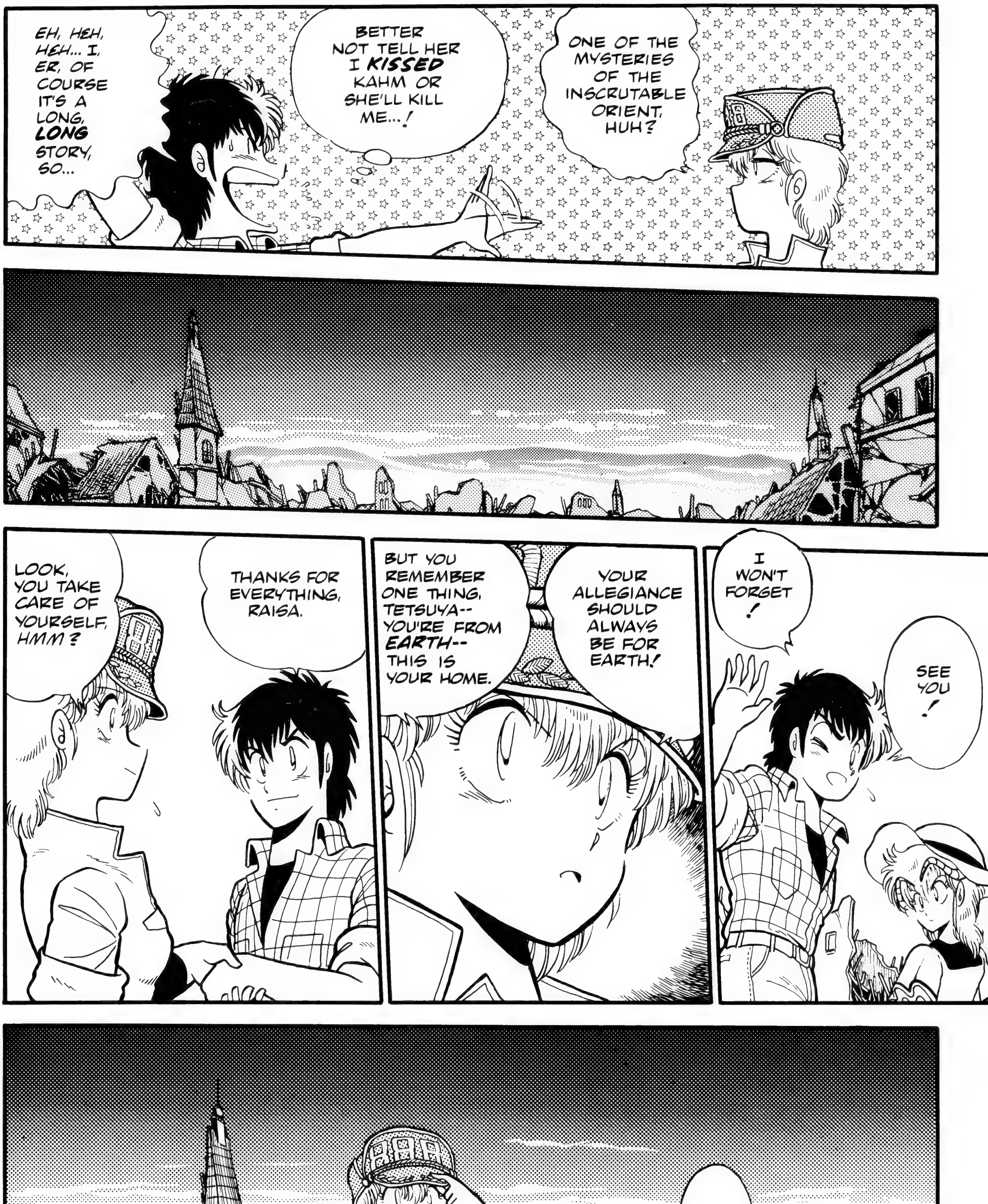

AAGH!
SKNCH
WHA-- ?!
AAAAA!!
AIEEE! MY GUN!!
YOU... IT'S YOU!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
GYAAA!

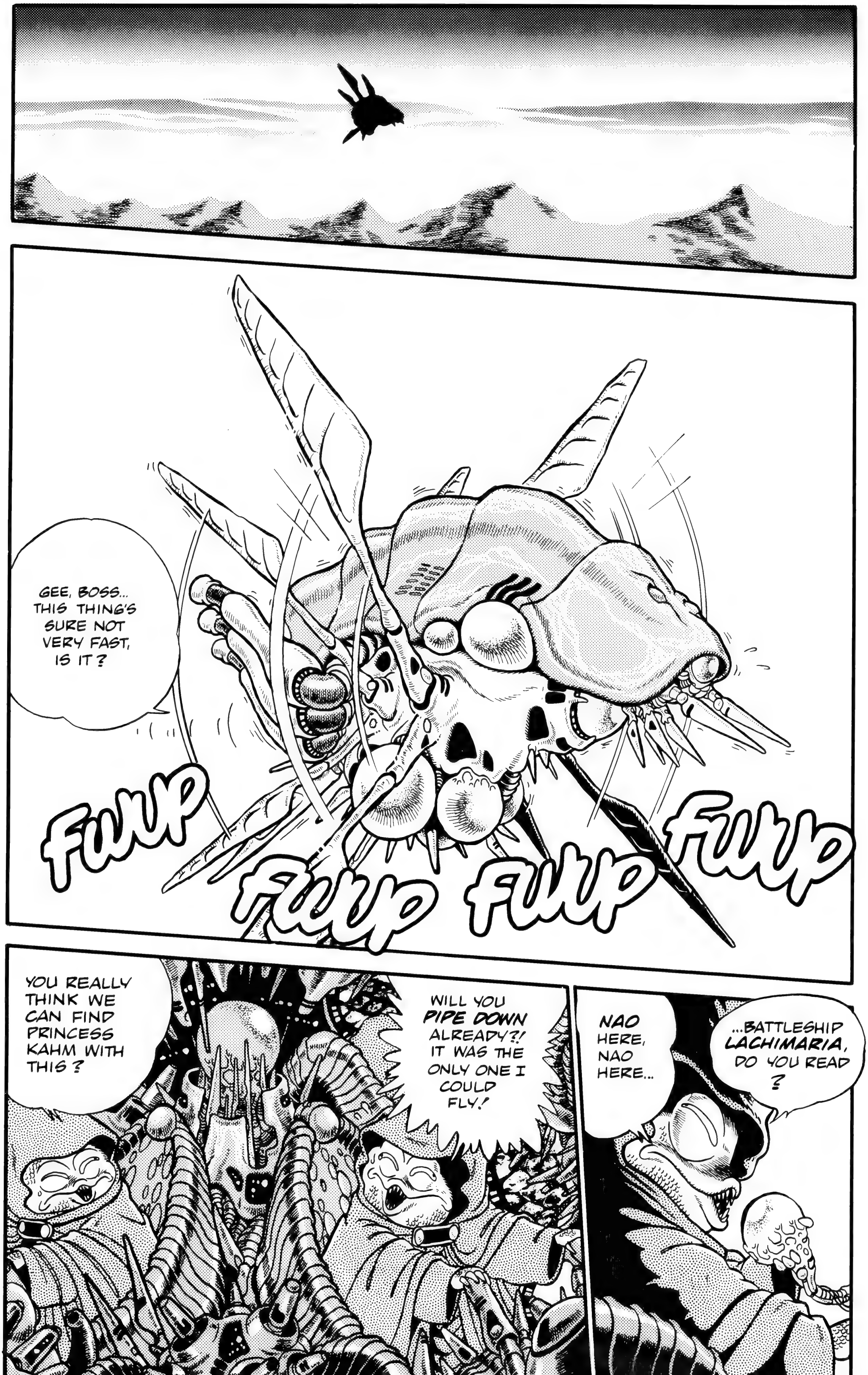

AIEE!
YAAH!
Kang
EYAAAH!!
HELP! SOMEBODY HELP!!
GBLOOSH
HELP!
AIEEE!! MONSTERS!!
COMMANDER, HELP!
NOOO!
EYAAAH!
RETREAT! RETREAT!!

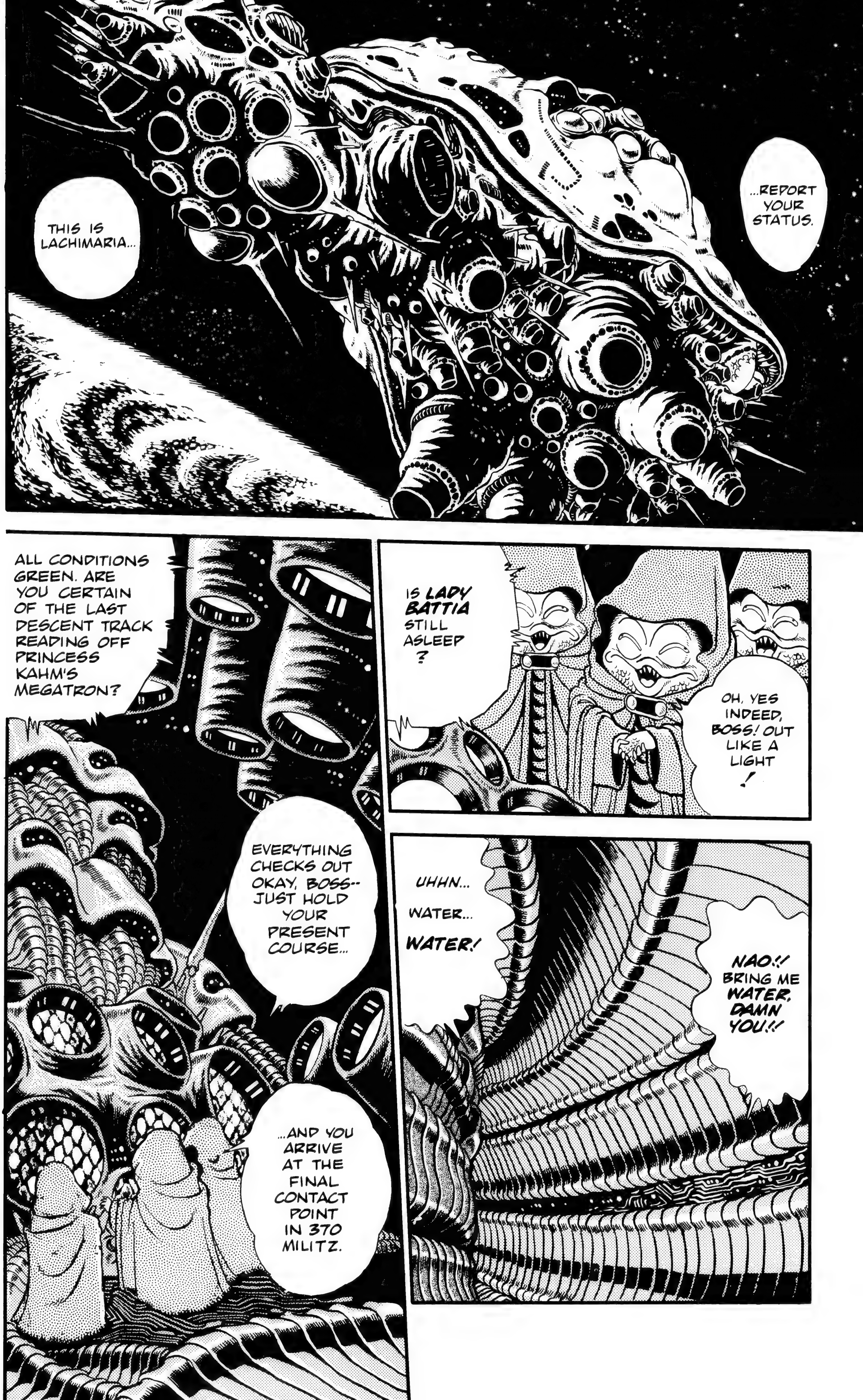

THAT'S PRETTY WEIRD...
I'LL SAY...
THEY ALL JUST THREW DOWN THEIR GUNS AND RAN OFF...
THEY EVEN LEFT THEIR TANK!
KAHM... WAS IT *YOU?* DID YOU DO SOMETHING?
Heh, heh... A *LITTLE* SOMETHING...
I SHOWED THEM A HALLUCINATION OR TWO, ANYWAY.
JEEZUZ! WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT *SOONER?!*
MORE FUN THIS WAY! ♡
HEH HEH HEH
ANYWAY, WE BETTER GET MOVING.
MIGHT BE *MORE* OF THEM NEXT TIME...

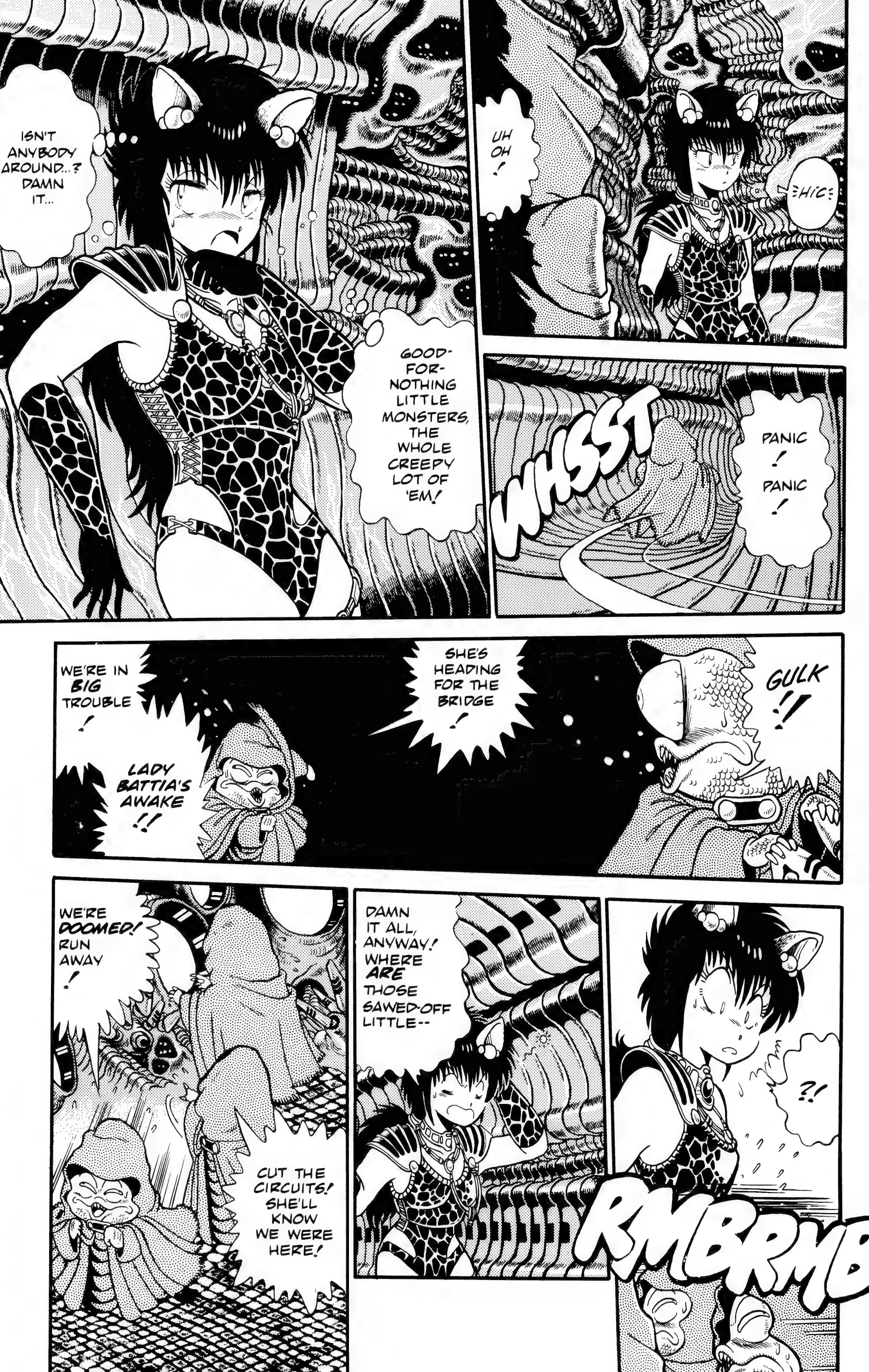

WELL, THEN... I GUESS IT'S GOODBYE.
HM?
I'M STAYING HERE IN TOWN.
IT'S A LITTLE TOO DANGEROUS TO HANG AROUND NEAR **HER**.
IF YOU THINK SO...
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
AW, DON'T WORRY ABOUT **ME**...
BUT YOU AREN'T GOING TO HAVE HER WALKING AROUND DRESSED LIKE **THIS**, ARE YOU?
MAKES HER KINDA **OBVIOUS**, DON'T YOU THINK?
YEAH, WELL... HMM.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH AT NIGHT... AND IT'S GOING TO BE DAY, SOON.
LOOK-- JUST LEAVE THIS ONE TO ME, OKAY?

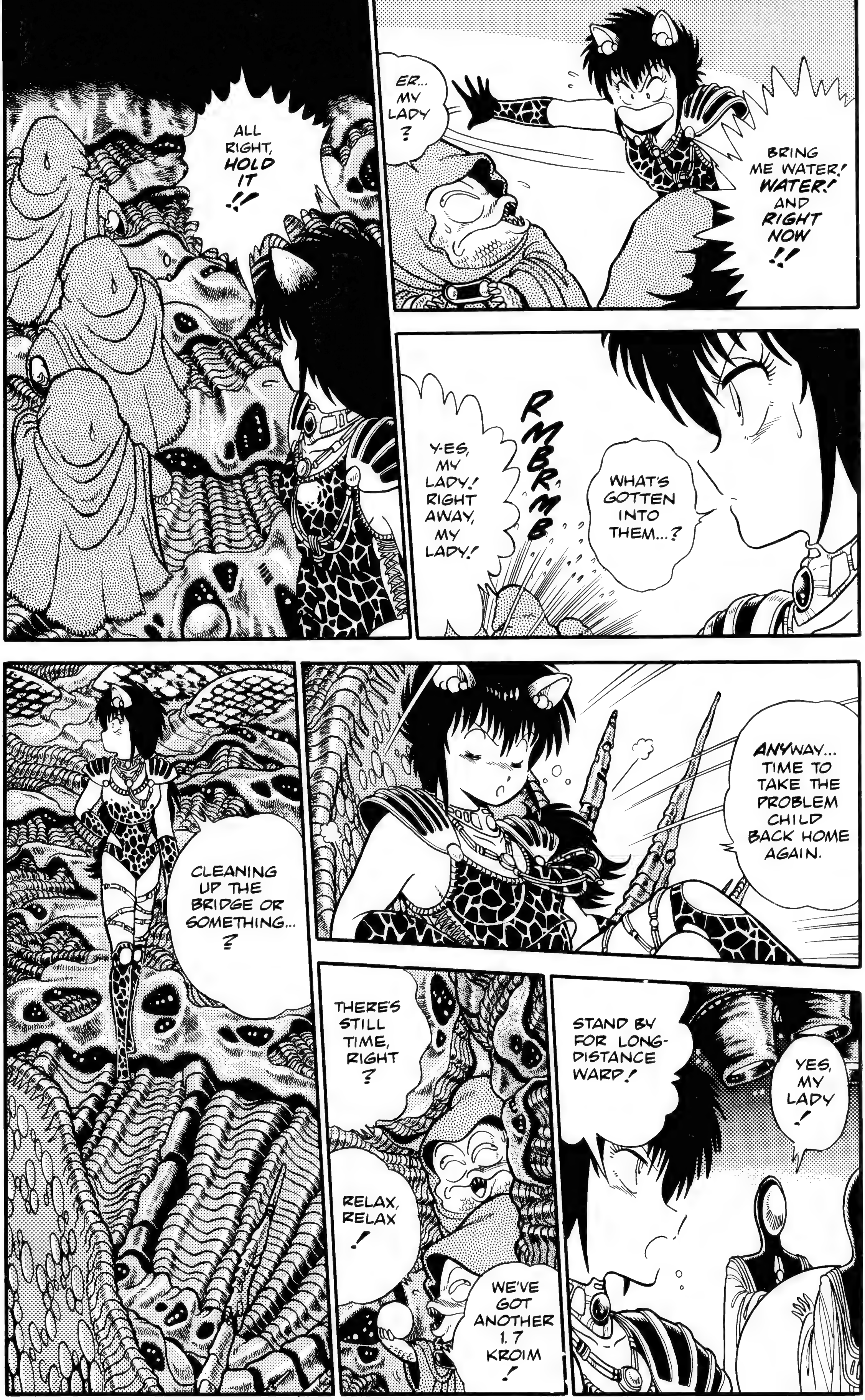

YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING !!
YOU'D NEVER GUESS I WASN'T HUMAN, HUH?
CUTE, MMM ?
WELL, I... YEAH !
NO, NO! IT OUGHT TO WORK...
?
HEY, TETSUYA... IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR A WHILE...
...BUT HOW DID YOU LEARN TO SPEAK ALIEN?
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF WHAT SHE SAYS-- JUST A BUNCH OF GIBBERISH!

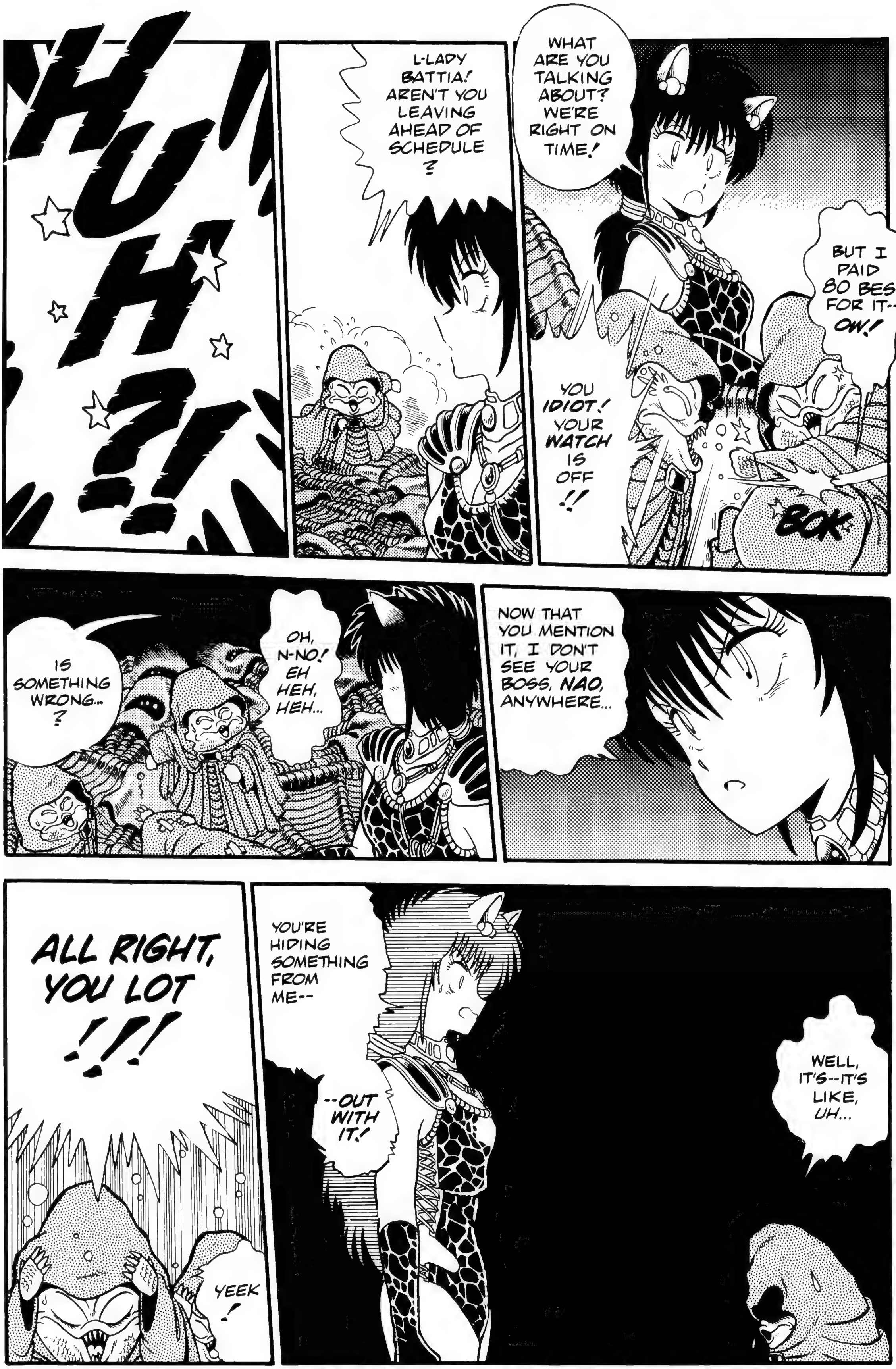

EH, HEH, HEH... I, ER, OF COURSE IT'S A LONG, **LONG** STORY, SO...
BETTER NOT TELL HER I ***KISSED*** KAHM OR SHE'LL KILL ME...!
ONE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE INSCRUTABLE ORIENT, HUH?
LOOK, YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, HMM?
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, RAISA.
BUT YOU REMEMBER ONE THING, TETSUYA-- YOU'RE FROM ***EARTH***-- THIS IS YOUR HOME.
YOUR ALLEGIANCE SHOULD ALWAYS BE FOR EARTH!
I WON'T FORGET!
SEE YOU!
HMM...

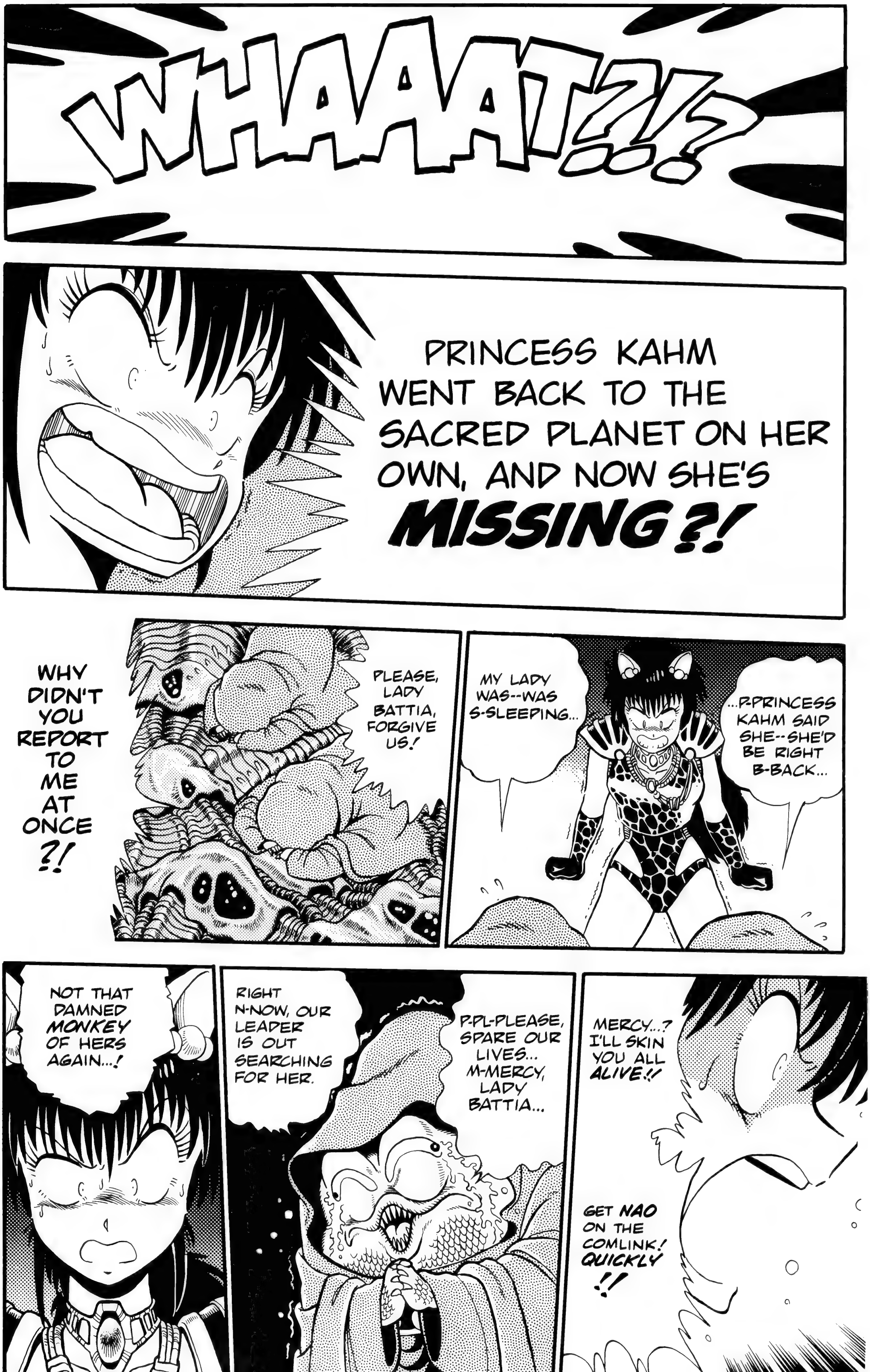

GEE, BOSS... THIS THING'S SURE NOT VERY FAST, IS IT?
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
FWUP
YOU REALLY THINK WE CAN FIND PRINCESS KAHM WITH THIS?
WILL YOU PIPE DOWN ALREADY?! IT WAS THE ONLY ONE I COULD FLY!
NAO HERE, NAO HERE...
...BATTLESHIP LACHIMARIA, DO YOU READ?

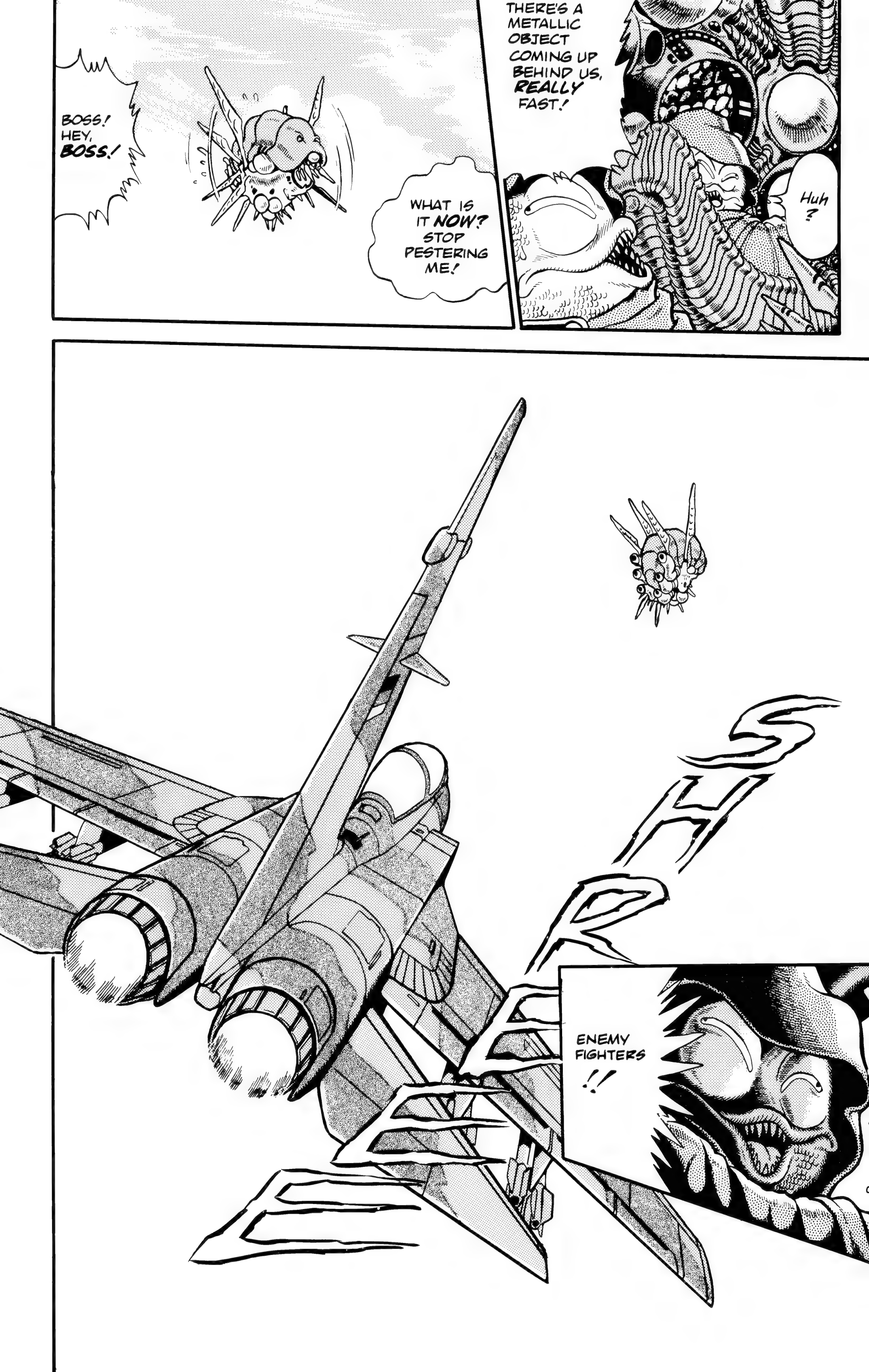

THIS IS LACHIMARIA...
...REPORT YOUR STATUS.
ALL CONDITIONS GREEN. ARE YOU CERTAIN OF THE LAST DESCENT TRACK READING OFF PRINCESS KAHM'S MEGATRON?
EVERYTHING CHECKS OUT OKAY, BOSS-- JUST HOLD YOUR PRESENT COURSE...
...AND YOU ARRIVE AT THE FINAL CONTACT POINT IN 370 MILITZ.
IS ***LADY BATTIA*** STILL ASLEEP?
OH, YES INDEED, BOSS! OUT LIKE A LIGHT!
UHHN... WATER... ***WATER!***
NAO!! BRING ME ***WATER, DAMN YOU!!***

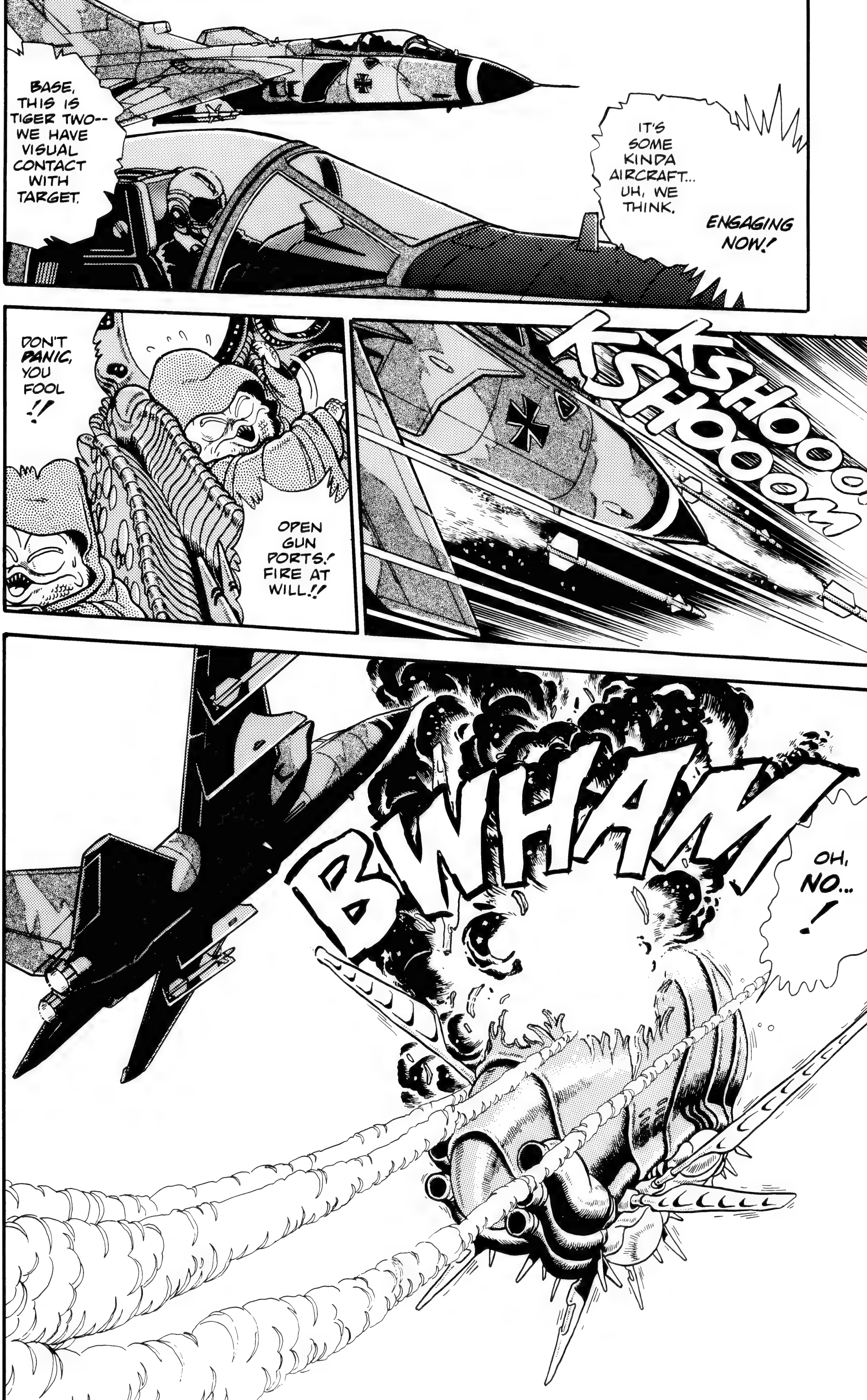

ISN'T ANYBODY AROUND...? DAMN IT...
GOOD-FOR-NOTHING LITTLE MONSTERS, THE WHOLE CREEPY LOT OF 'EM!
UH OH!
HIC
WHSSST
PANIC! PANIC!
WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!
LADY BATTIA'S AWAKE!!
SHE'S HEADING FOR THE BRIDGE!
GULK!!
WE'RE DOOMED! RUN AWAY!
CUT THE CIRCUITS! SHE'LL KNOW WE WERE HERE!
DAMN IT ALL, ANYWAY! WHERE ARE THOSE SAWED-OFF LITTLE--
?!
RMBRMB

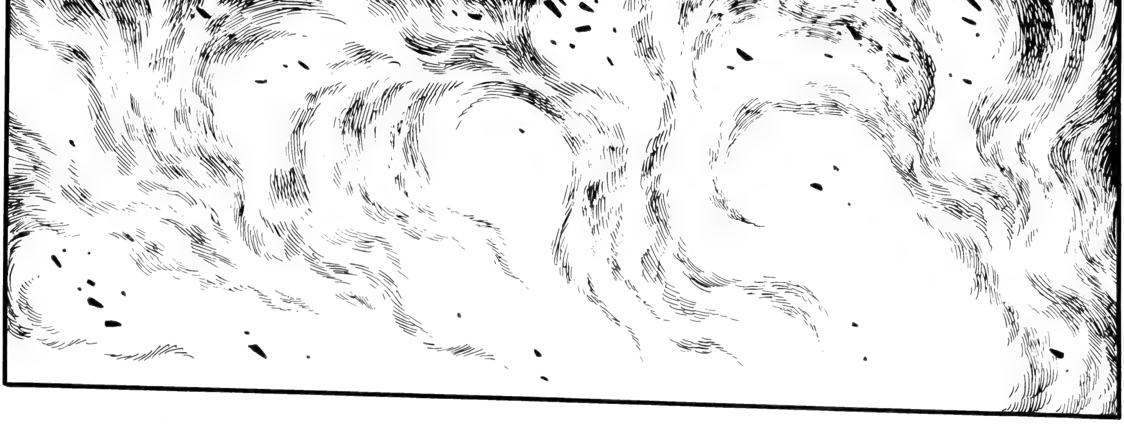

ALL RIGHT, HOLD IT!!
ER... MY LADY?
BRING ME WATER! WATER! AND RIGHT NOW!!
Y-ES, MY LADY! RIGHT AWAY, MY LADY!
RMBRMB
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO THEM...?
CLEANING UP THE BRIDGE OR SOMETHING...?
ANYWAY... TIME TO TAKE THE PROBLEM CHILD BACK HOME AGAIN.
THERE'S STILL TIME, RIGHT?
RELAX, RELAX!
WE'VE GOT ANOTHER 1.7 KROIM!
STAND BY FOR LONG-DISTANCE WARP!
YES, MY LADY!

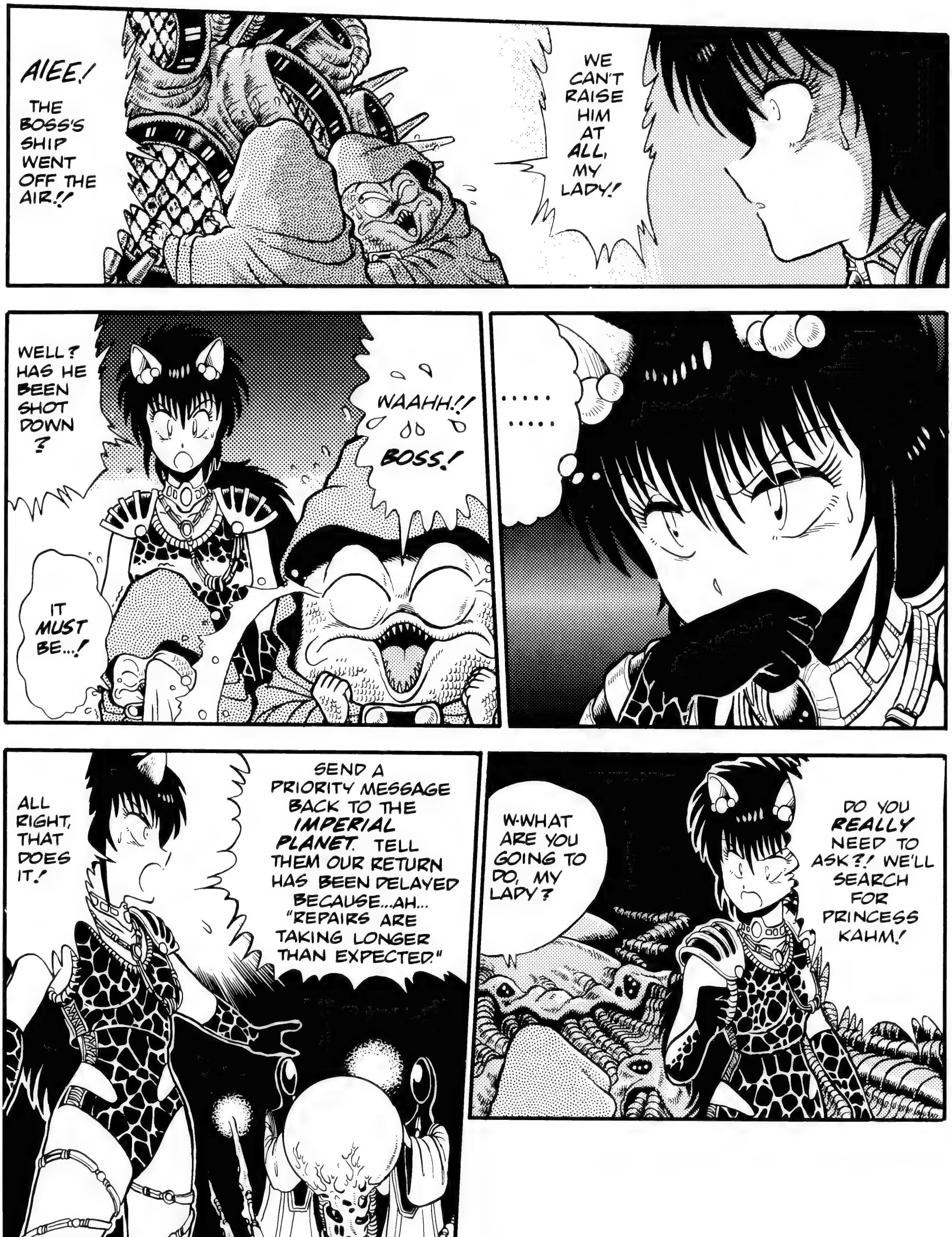

HUH?!!
L-LADY BATTIA! AREN'T YOU LEAVING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE'RE RIGHT ON TIME!
YOU IDIOT! YOUR WATCH IS OFF!!
BUT I PAID 80 BESU FOR IT-- OW!
BOK
IS SOMETHING WRONG..?
OH, N-NO! EH HEH, HEH...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DON'T SEE YOUR BOSS, NAO, ANYWHERE...
ALL RIGHT, YOU LOT!!!
YEEK!
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME--
--OUT WITH IT!
WELL, IT'S--IT'S LIKE, UH...

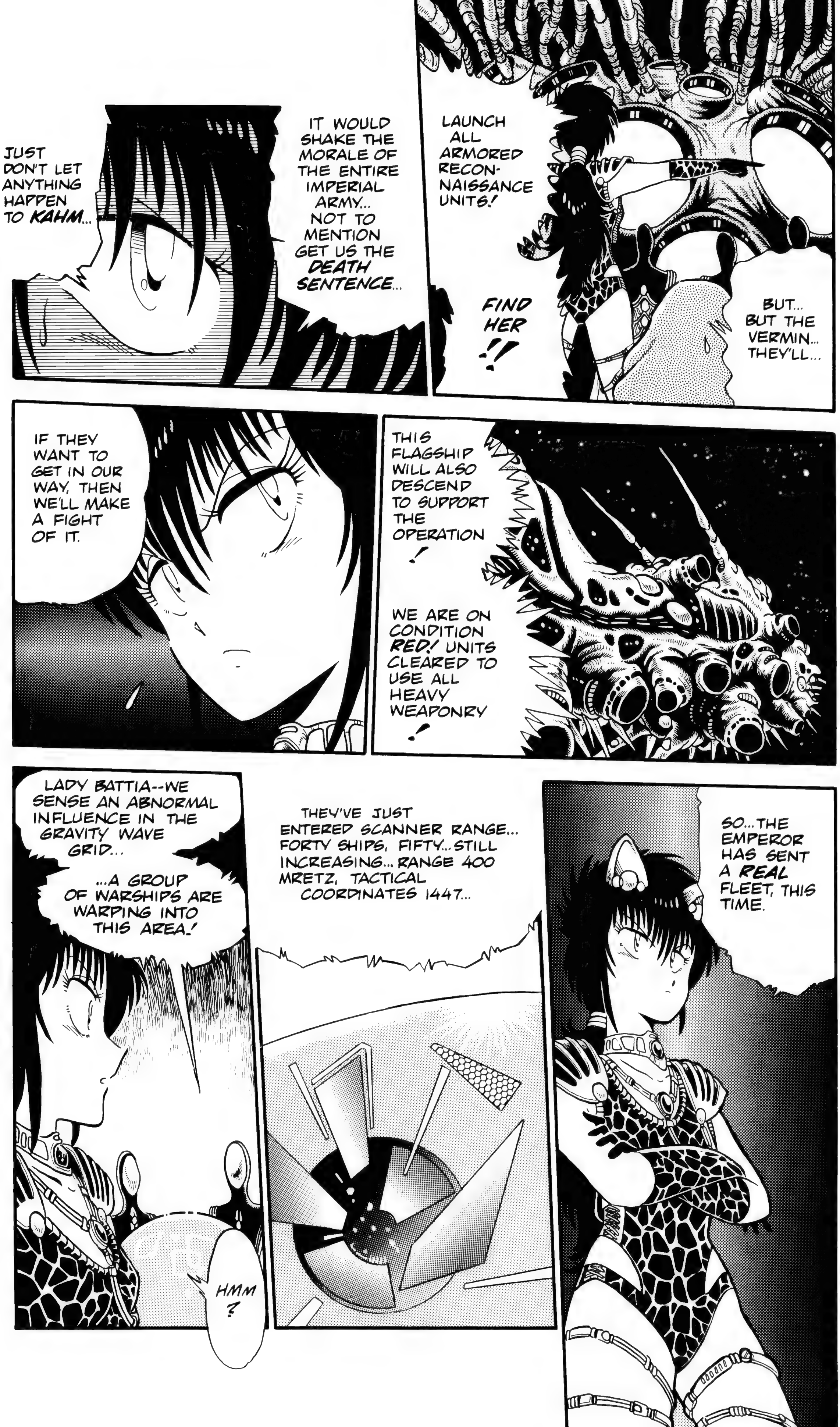

WHAAAT?!?
PRINCESS KAHM WENT BACK TO THE SACRED PLANET ON HER OWN, AND NOW SHE'S MISSING?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU REPORT TO ME AT ONCE?!
PLEASE, LADY BATTIA, FORGIVE US!
MY LADY WAS--WAS S-SLEEPING...
...P-PRINCESS KAHM SAID SHE--SHE'D BE RIGHT B-BACK...
NOT THAT DAMNED MONKEY OF HERS AGAIN...!
RIGHT N-NOW, OUR LEADER IS OUT SEARCHING FOR HER.
P-PL-PLEASE, SPARE OUR LIVES... M-MERCY, LADY BATTIA...
MERCY...? I'LL SKIN YOU ALL ALIVE!!
GET NAO ON THE COMLINK! QUICKLY!!

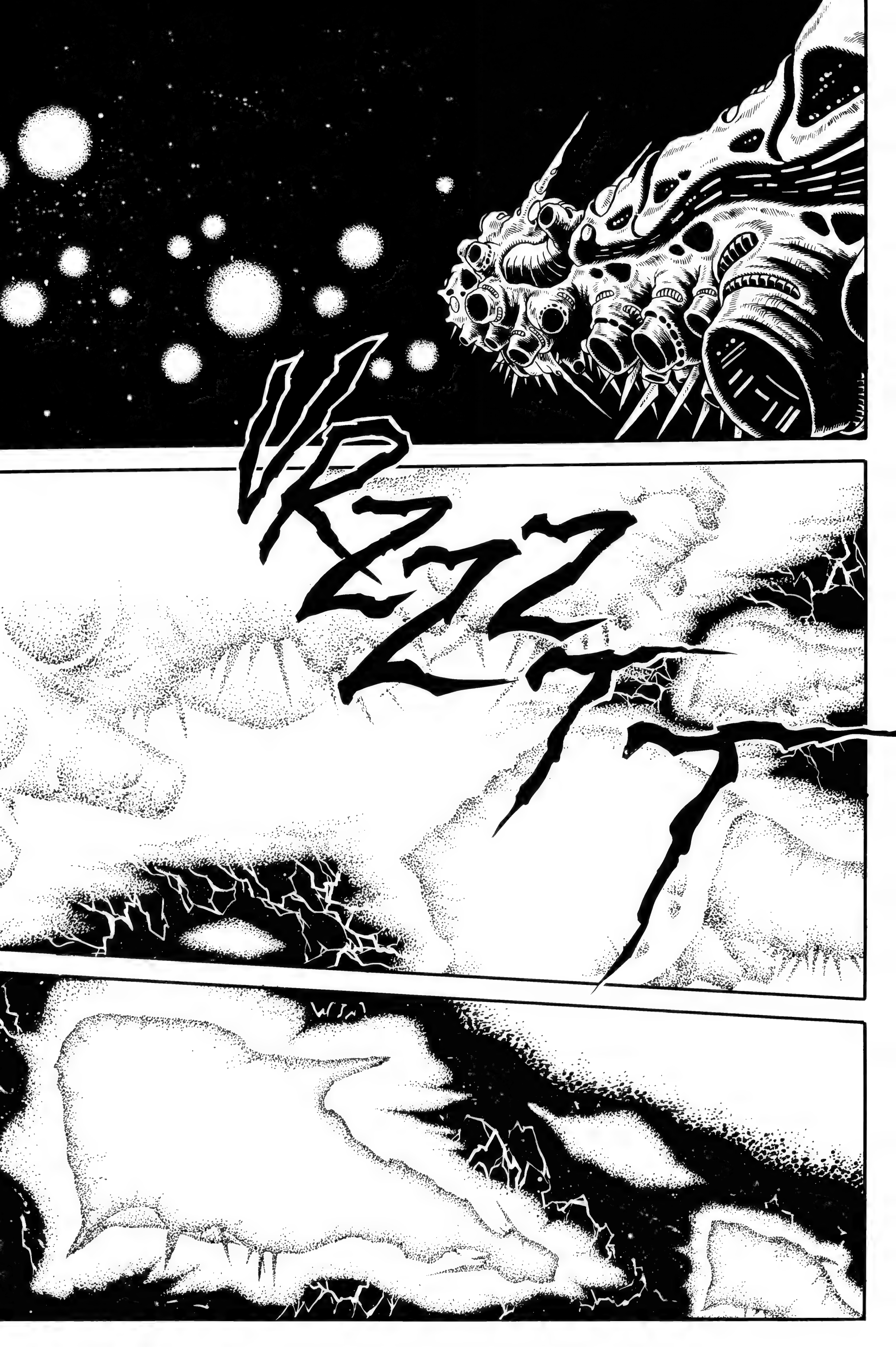

BOSS! HEY, BOSS!
WHAT IS IT NOW? STOP PESTERING ME!
THERE'S A METALLIC OBJECT COMING UP BEHIND US, REALLY FAST!
Huh?
SHREEE
ENEMY FIGHTERS !!

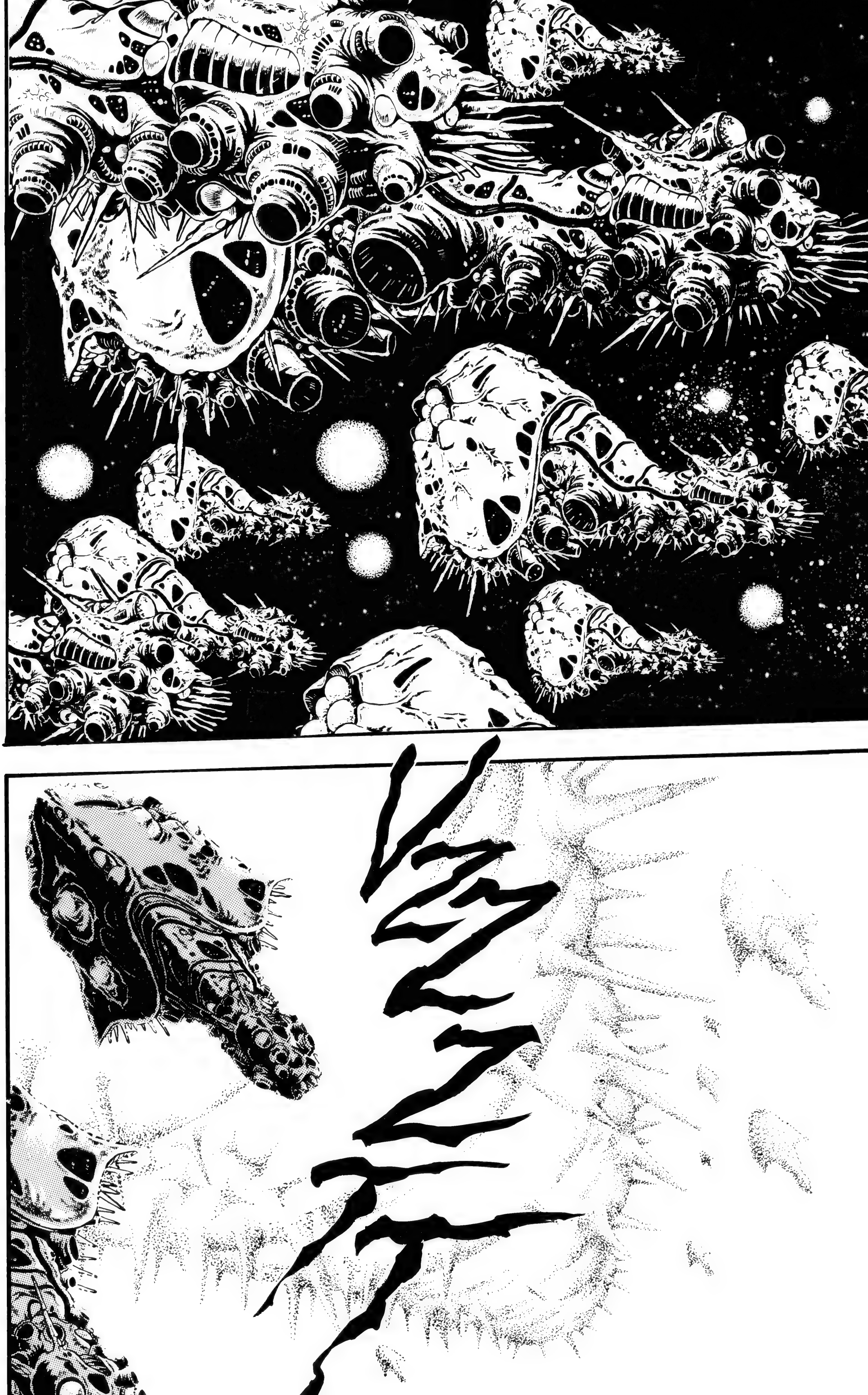

BASE, THIS IS TIGER TWO-- WE HAVE VISUAL CONTACT WITH TARGET.
IT'S SOME KINDA AIRCRAFT... UH, WE THINK.
ENGAGING NOW!
DON'T *PANIC*, YOU FOOL!!
OPEN GUN PORTS! FIRE AT WILL!!
KSHOOOO
KSHOOOOOM
BWHAM
OH, NO...!

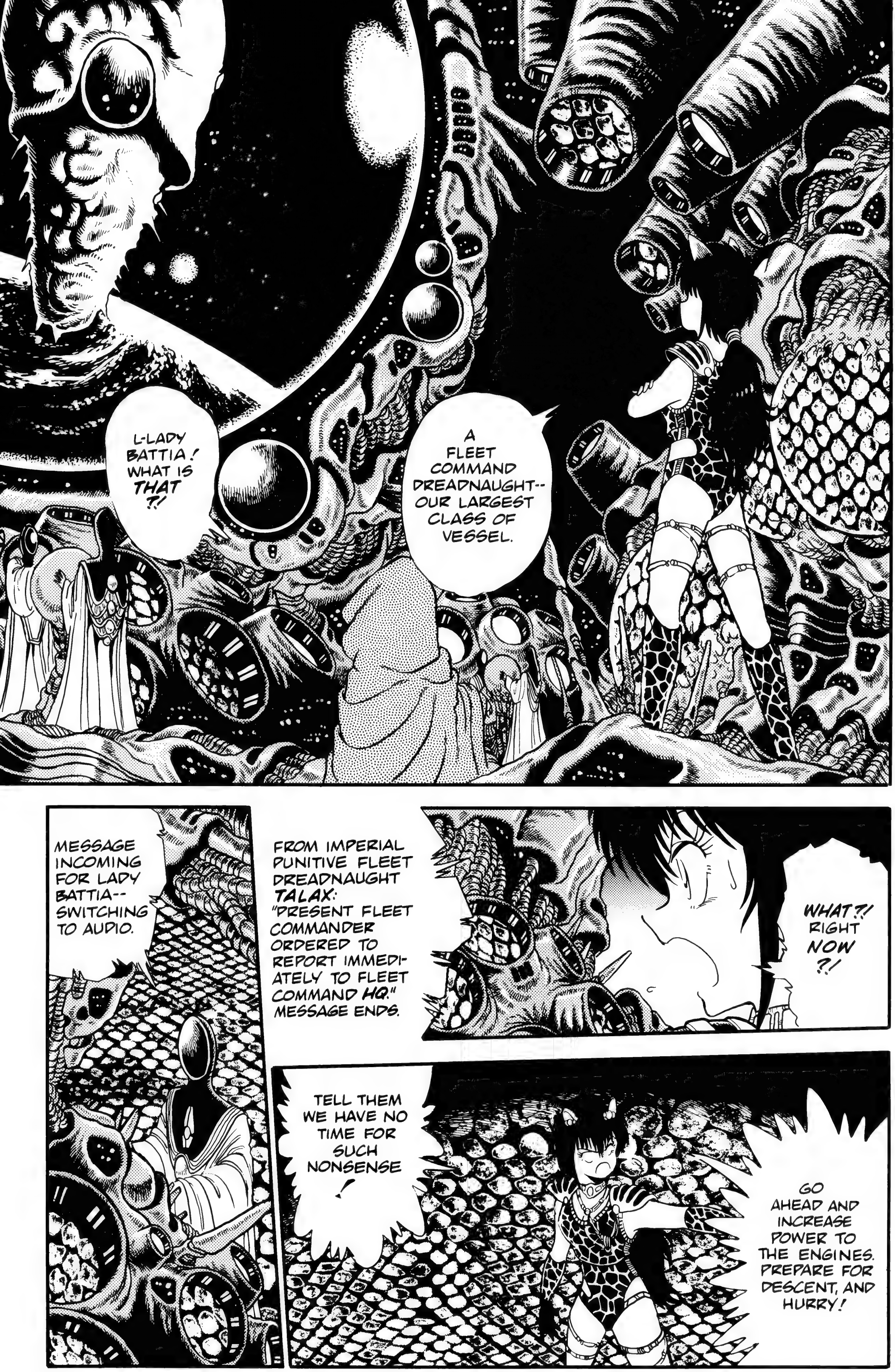


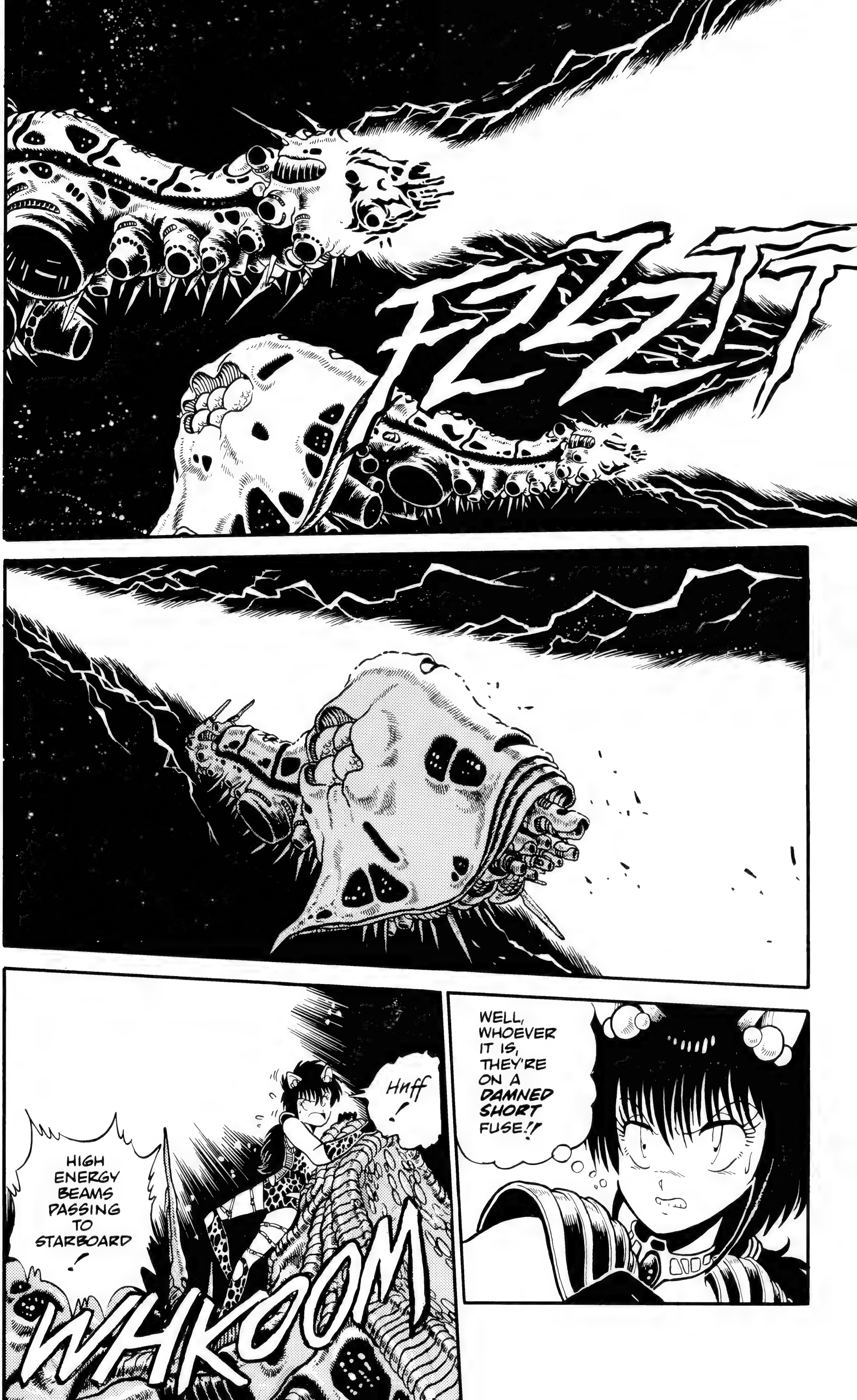

AIEE! THE BOSS'S SHIP WENT OFF THE AIR!!
WE CAN'T RAISE HIM AT ALL, MY LADY!
WELL? HAS HE BEEN SHOT DOWN?
WAAHH!! BOSS!
IT MUST BE...!
....
ALL RIGHT, THAT DOES IT!
SEND A PRIORITY MESSAGE BACK TO THE IMPERIAL PLANET. TELL THEM OUR RETURN HAS BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE...AH... "REPAIRS ARE TAKING LONGER THAN EXPECTED."
W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MY LADY?
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO ASK?! WE'LL SEARCH FOR PRINCESS KAHM!

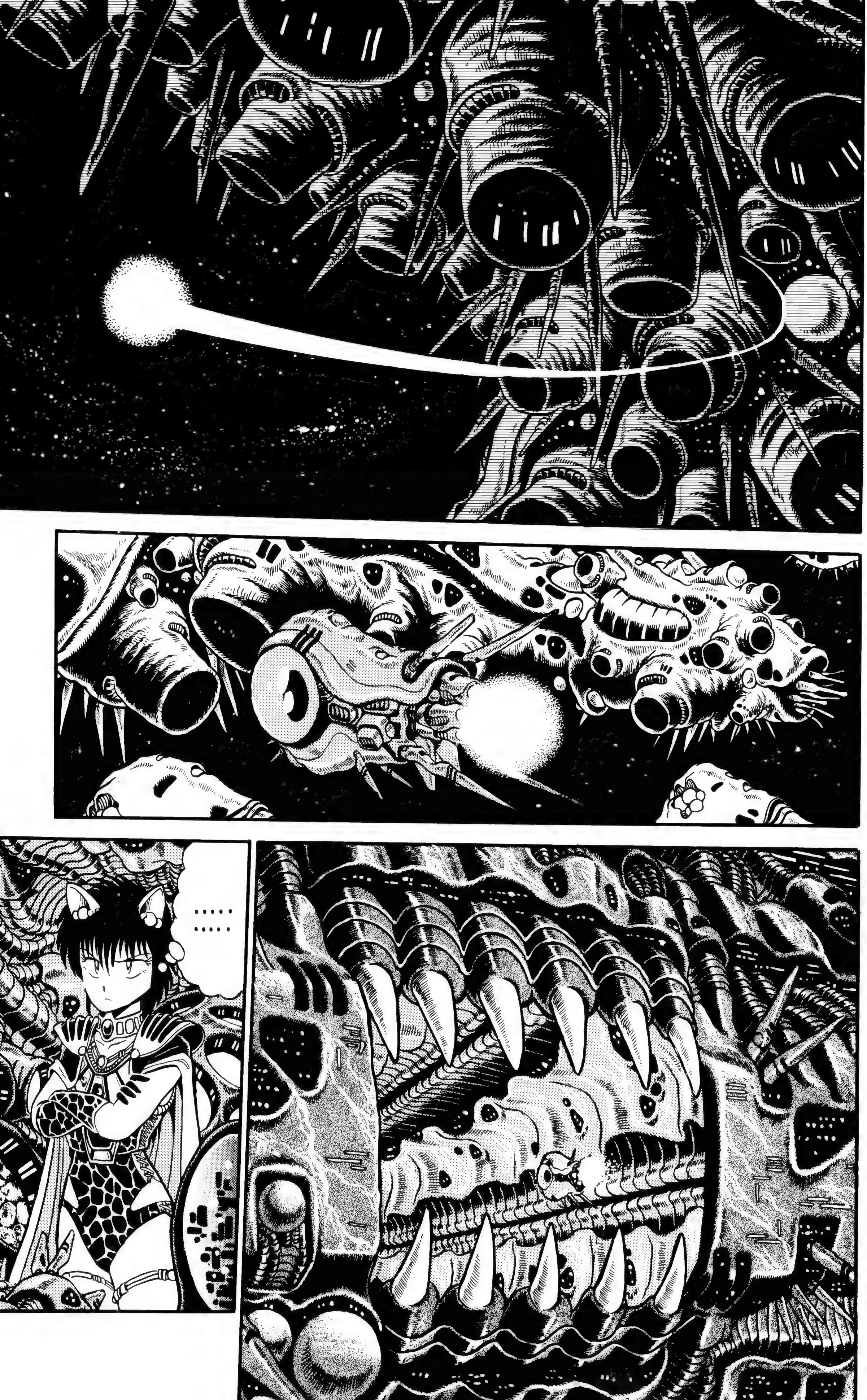

JUST DON'T LET ANYTHING HAPPEN TO *KAHM*...
IT WOULD SHAKE THE MORALE OF THE ENTIRE IMPERIAL ARMY... NOT TO MENTION GET US THE *DEATH SENTENCE*...
LAUNCH ALL ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE UNITS!
FIND HER!!
BUT... BUT THE VERMIN... THEY'LL...
IF THEY WANT TO GET IN OUR WAY, THEN WE'LL MAKE A FIGHT OF IT.
THIS FLAGSHIP WILL ALSO DESCEND TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION!
WE ARE ON CONDITION *RED!* UNITS CLEARED TO USE ALL HEAVY WEAPONRY!
LADY BATTIA--WE SENSE AN ABNORMAL INFLUENCE IN THE GRAVITY WAVE GRID...
...A GROUP OF WARSHIPS ARE WARPING INTO THIS AREA!
THEY'VE JUST ENTERED SCANNER RANGE... FORTY SHIPS, FIFTY... STILL INCREASING... RANGE 400 MRETZ, TACTICAL COORDINATES 1447...
HMM?
SO... THE EMPEROR HAS SENT A *REAL* FLEET, THIS TIME.

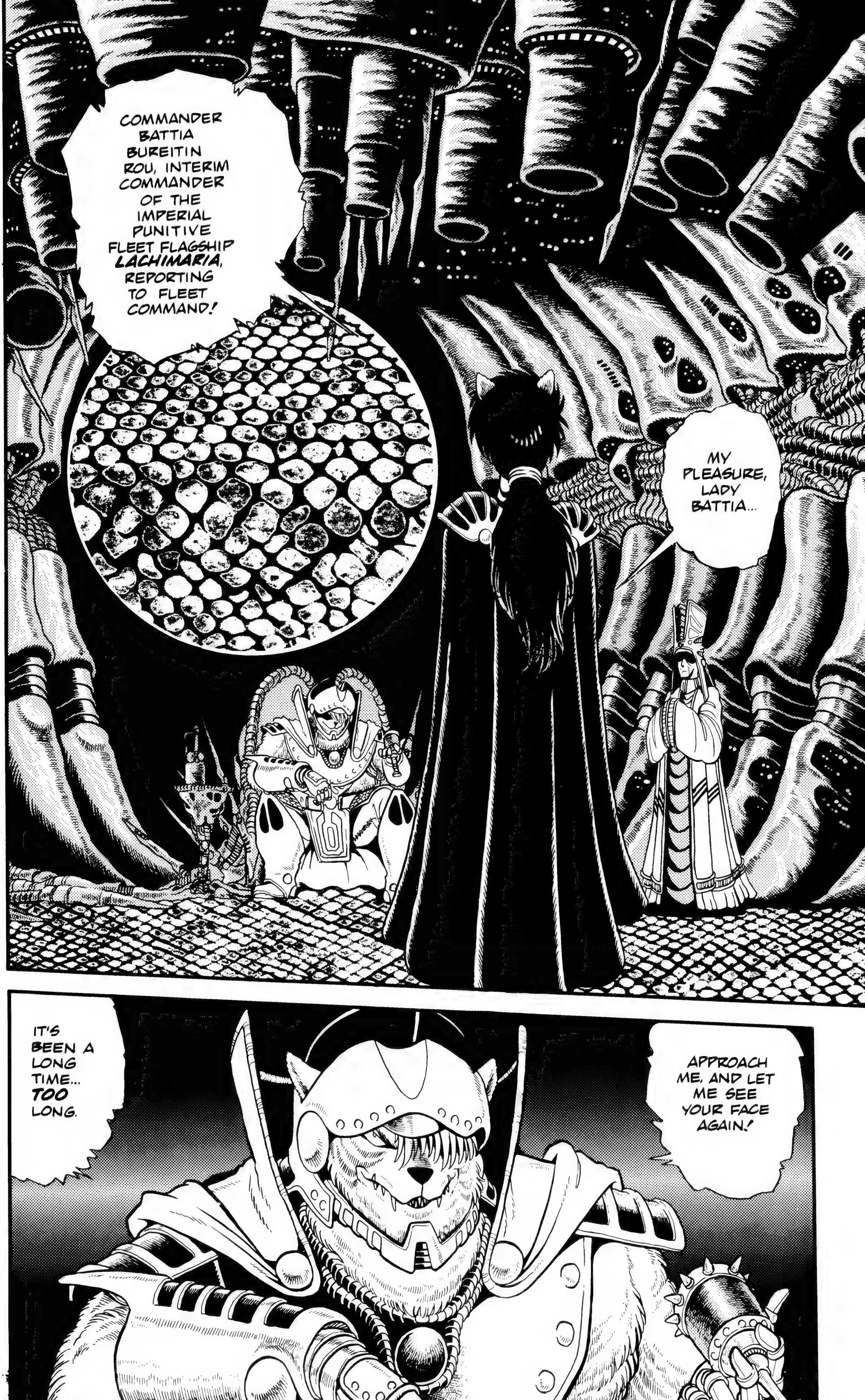

VRZZZZT

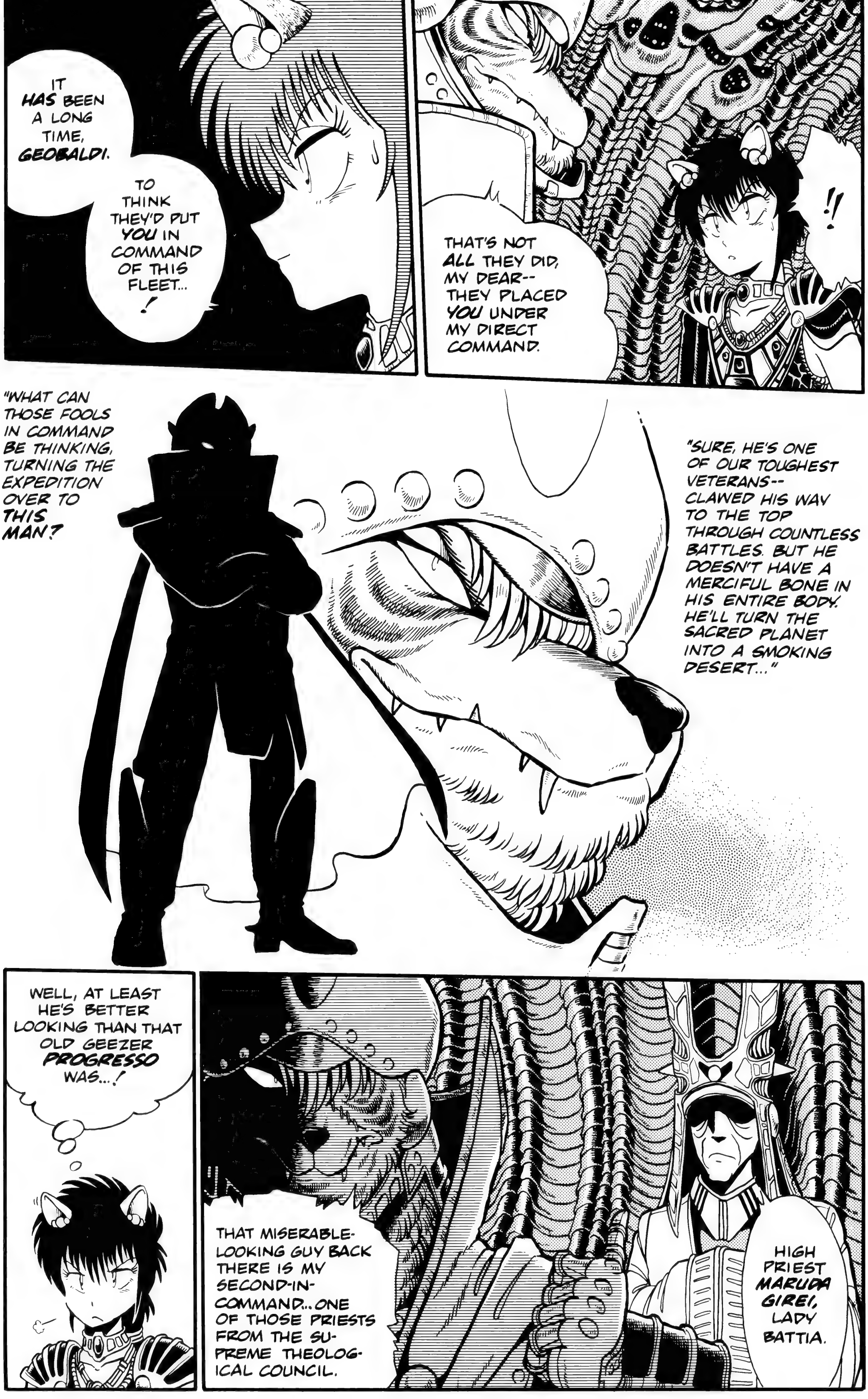


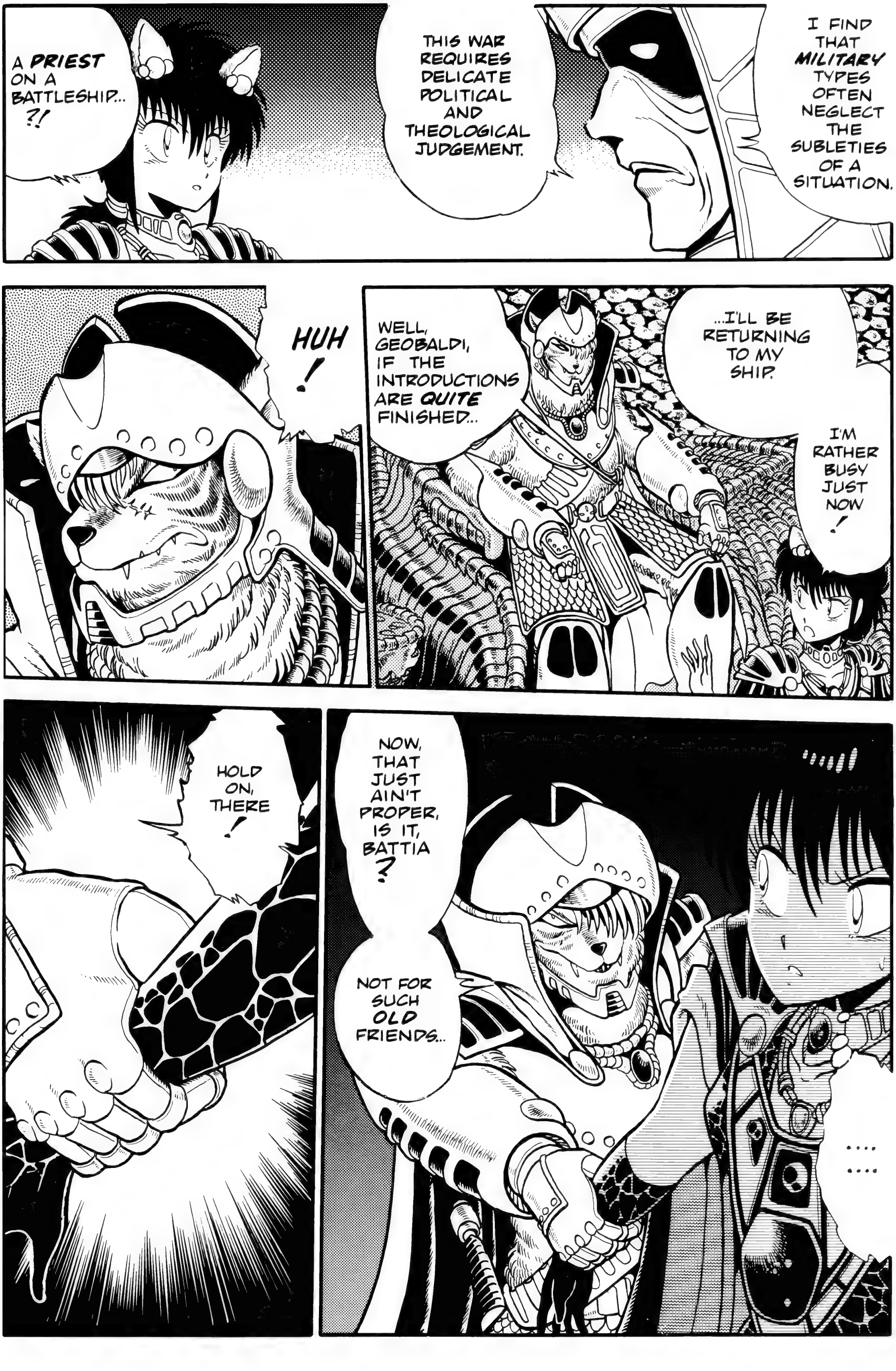

L-LADY BATTIA! WHAT IS *THAT* ?!
A FLEET COMMAND DREADNAUGHT--OUR LARGEST CLASS OF VESSEL.
MESSAGE INCOMING FOR LADY BATTIA--SWITCHING TO AUDIO.
FROM IMPERIAL PUNITIVE FLEET DREADNAUGHT *TALAX*: "PRESENT FLEET COMMANDER ORDERED TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO FLEET COMMAND *HQ*." MESSAGE ENDS.
WHAT?! RIGHT *NOW* ?!
TELL THEM WE HAVE NO TIME FOR SUCH NONSENSE!
GO AHEAD AND INCREASE POWER TO THE ENGINES. PREPARE FOR DESCENT, AND HURRY!

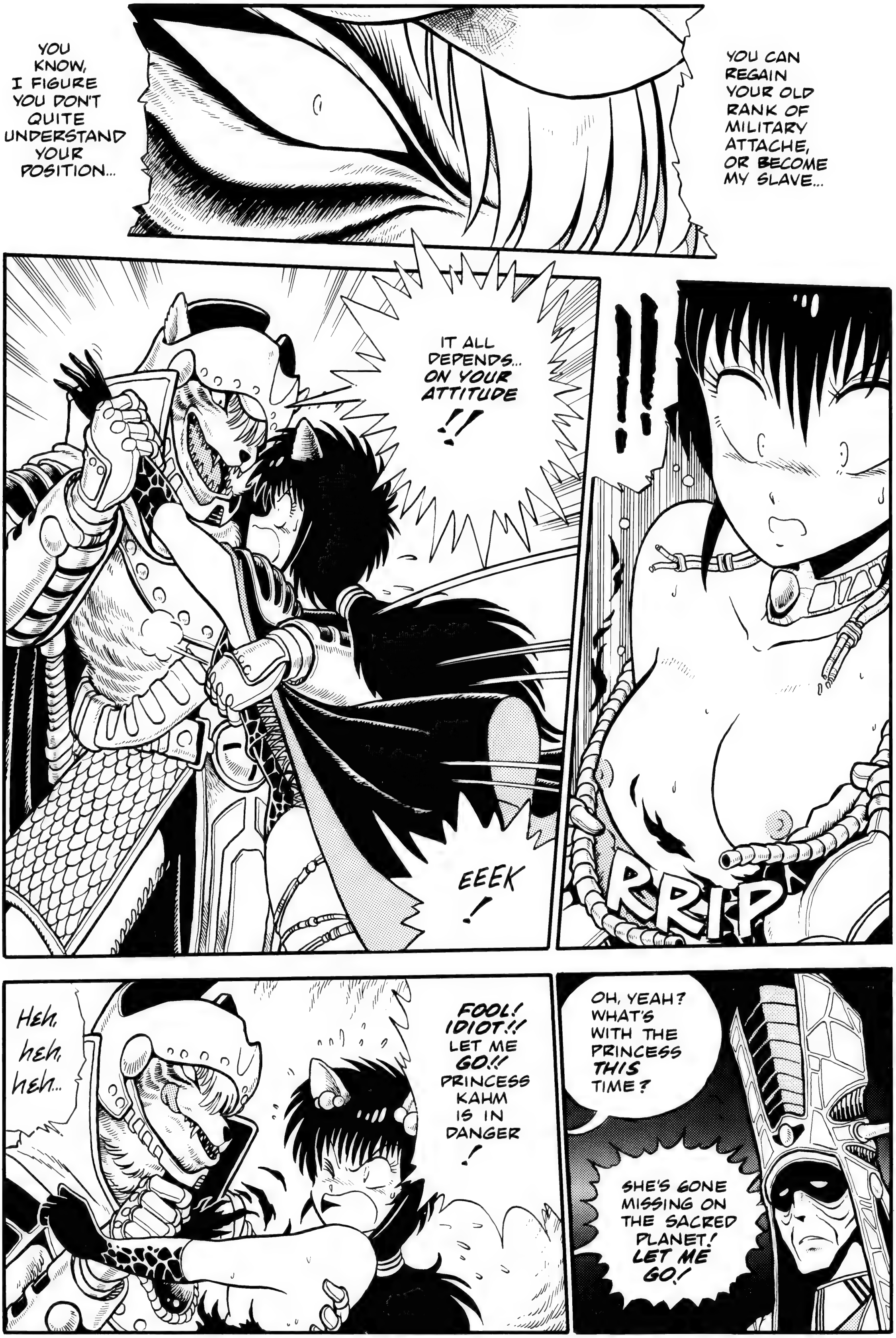

FZZTT
HIGH ENERGY BEAMS PASSING TO STARBOARD!
Hnff!
WHKOOM
WELL, WHOEVER IT IS, THEY'RE ON A *DAMNED SHORT* FUSE!!

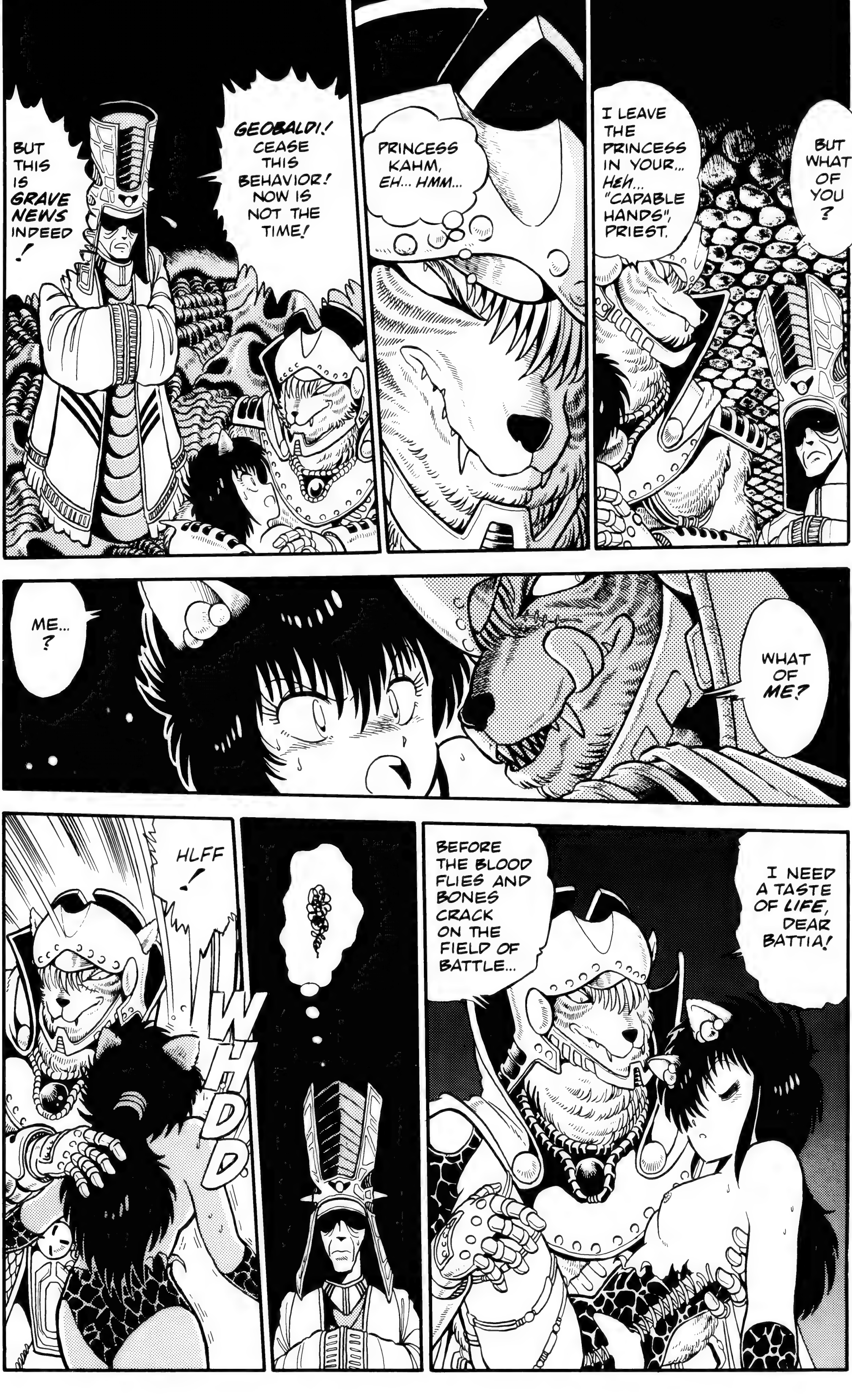


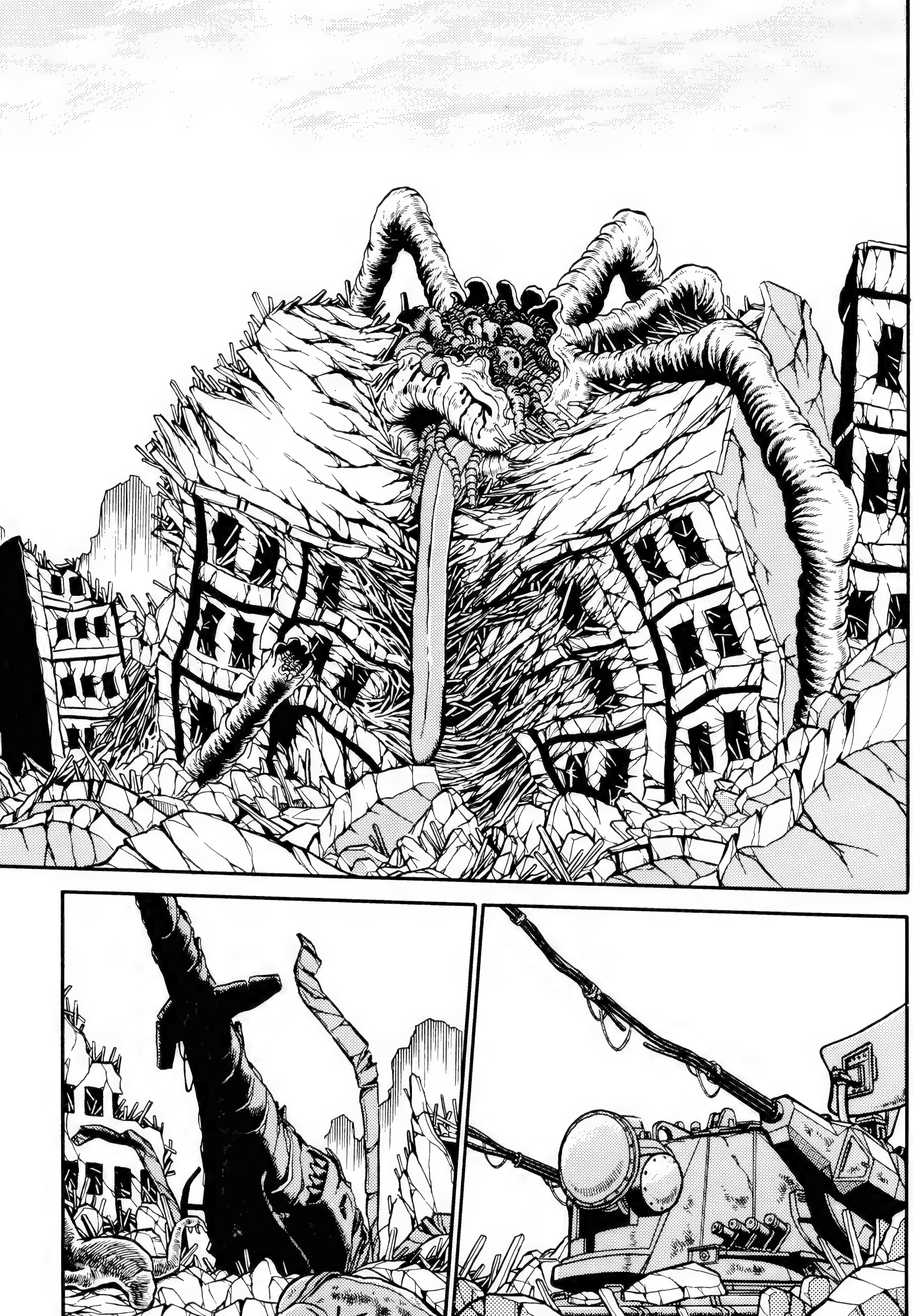

COMMANDER BATTIA BUREITIN ROU, INTERIM COMMANDER OF THE IMPERIAL PUNITIVE FLEET FLAGSHIP ***LACHIMARIA***, REPORTING TO FLEET COMMAND!
MY PLEASURE, LADY BATTIA...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME... ***TOO*** LONG.
APPROACH ME, AND LET ME SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN!

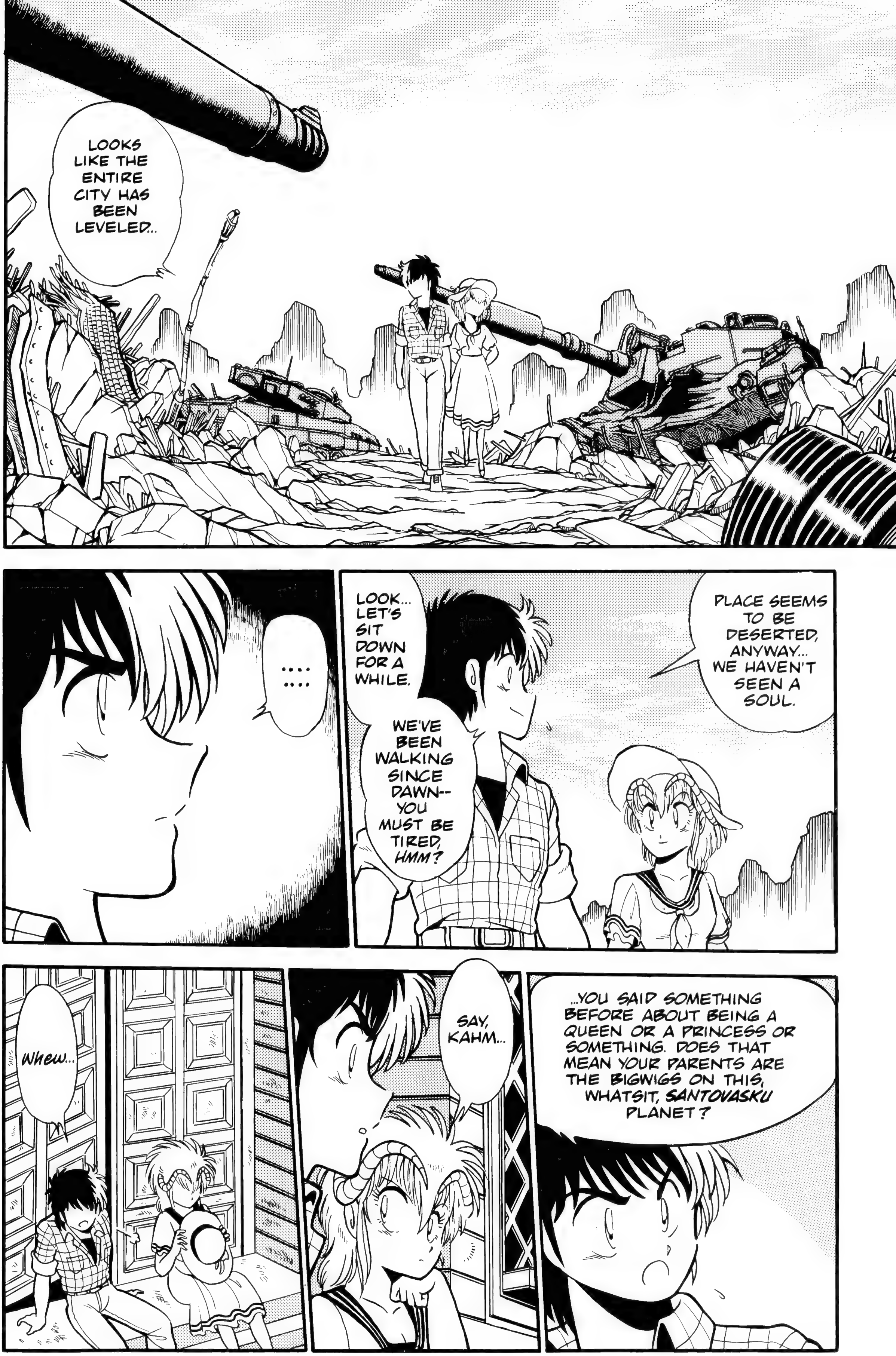

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, GEOBALDI.
TO THINK THEY'D PUT YOU IN COMMAND OF THIS FLEET...!
THAT'S NOT ALL THEY DID, MY DEAR-- THEY PLACED YOU UNDER MY DIRECT COMMAND.
!!
"WHAT CAN THOSE FOOLS IN COMMAND BE THINKING, TURNING THE EXPEDITION OVER TO THIS MAN?
"SURE, HE'S ONE OF OUR TOUGHEST VETERANS-- CLAWED HIS WAY TO THE TOP THROUGH COUNTLESS BATTLES. BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE A MERCIFUL BONE IN HIS ENTIRE BODY. HE'LL TURN THE SACRED PLANET INTO A SMOKING DESERT..."
WELL, AT LEAST HE'S BETTER LOOKING THAN THAT OLD GEEZER PROGRESSO WAS...!
THAT MISERABLE-LOOKING GUY BACK THERE IS MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND...ONE OF THOSE PRIESTS FROM THE SUPREME THEOLOGICAL COUNCIL.
HIGH PRIEST MARUDA GIREI, LADY BATTIA.

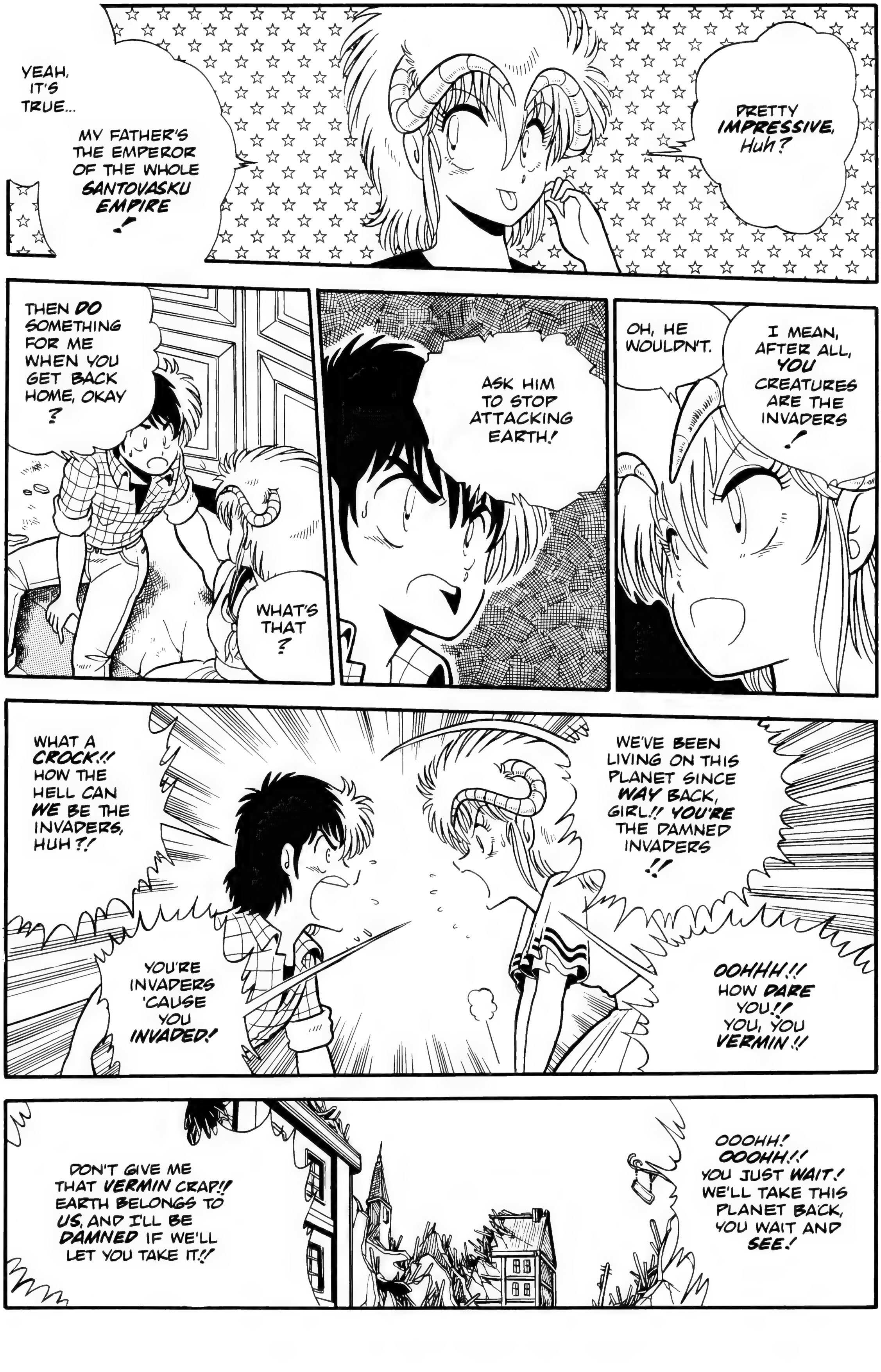

A PRIEST ON A BATTLESHIP... ?!
THIS WAR REQUIRES DELICATE POLITICAL AND THEOLOGICAL JUDGEMENT.
I FIND THAT MILITARY TYPES OFTEN NEGLECT THE SUBLETIES OF A SITUATION.
HUH!
WELL, GEOBALDI, IF THE INTRODUCTIONS ARE QUITE FINISHED...
...I'LL BE RETURNING TO MY SHIP.
I'M RATHER BUSY JUST NOW!
HOLD ON, THERE!
NOW, THAT JUST AIN'T PROPER, IS IT, BATTIA?
NOT FOR SUCH OLD FRIENDS...
....
....

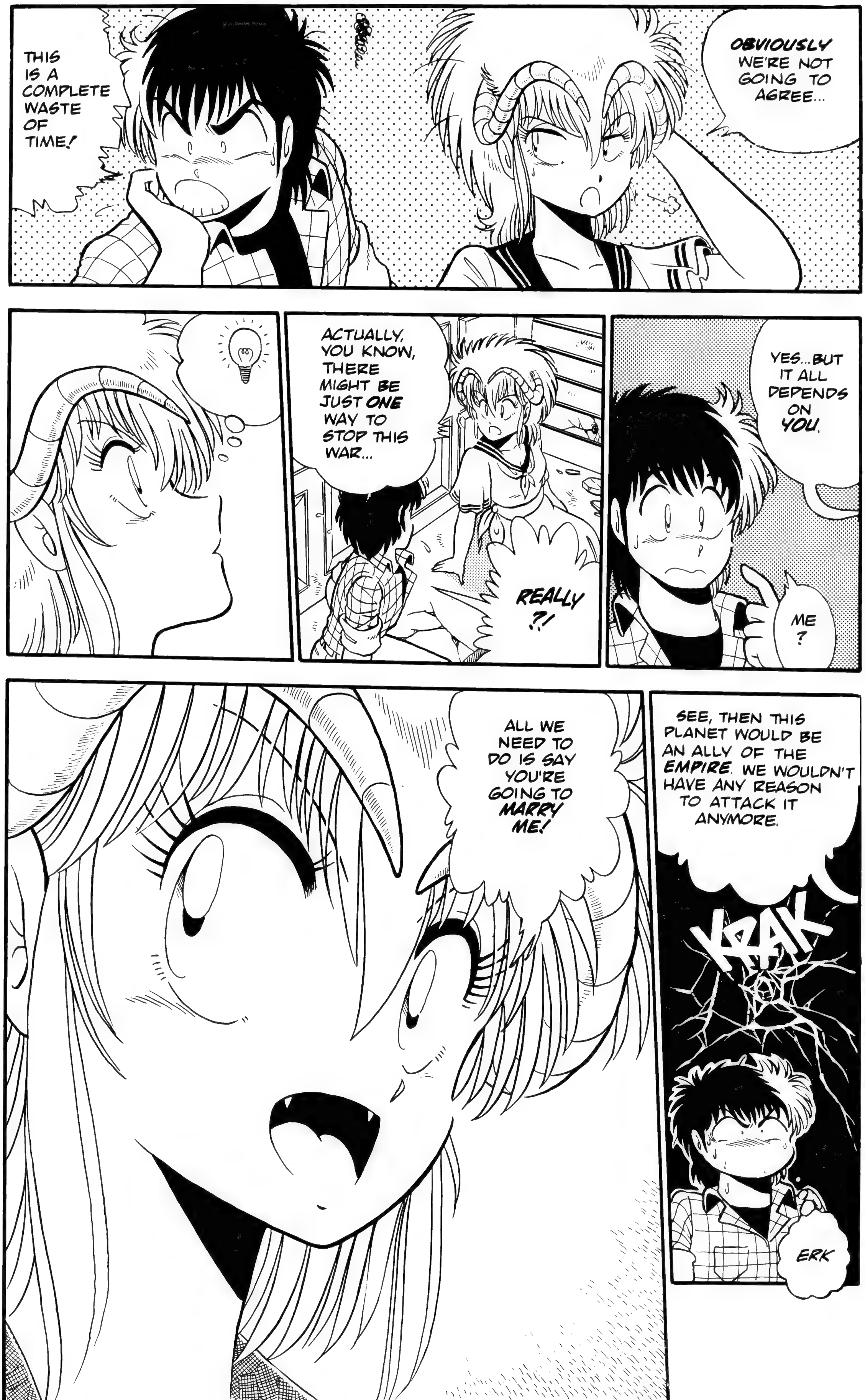

YOU KNOW, I FIGURE YOU DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION...
YOU CAN REGAIN YOUR OLD RANK OF MILITARY ATTACHE, OR BECOME MY SLAVE...
IT ALL DEPENDS... *ON YOUR ATTITUDE* !!
EEEK !
!!
RRIP
Heh, heh, heh...
FOOL! IDIOT!! LET ME *GO!!* PRINCESS KAHM IS IN DANGER !
OH, YEAH? WHAT'S WITH THE PRINCESS *THIS* TIME?
SHE'S GONE MISSING ON THE SACRED PLANET! *LET ME GO!*

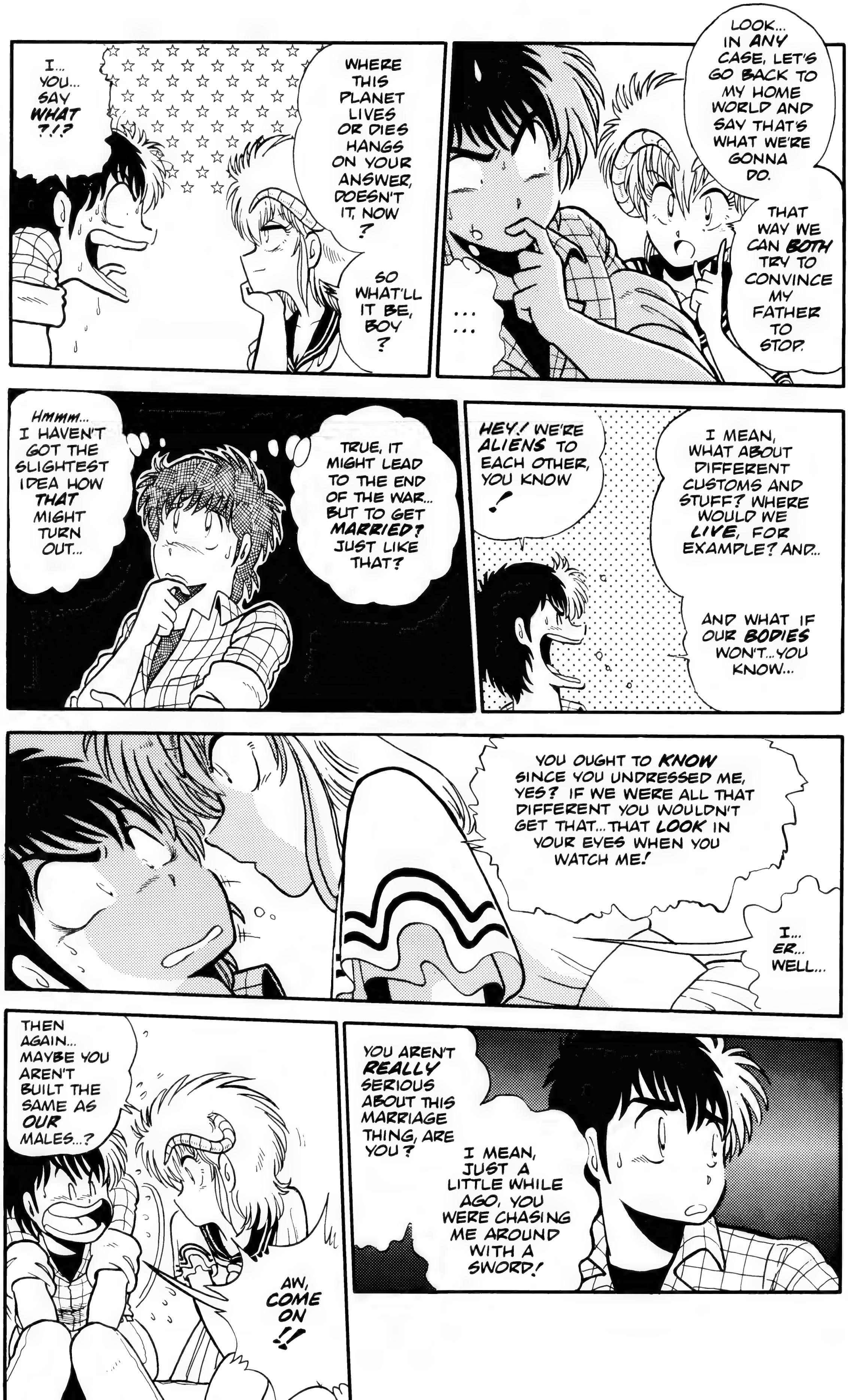

BUT THIS IS **GRAVE NEWS** INDEED!
GEOBALDI! CEASE THIS BEHAVIOR! NOW IS NOT THE TIME!
PRINCESS KAHM, *EH... HMM...*
I LEAVE THE PRINCESS IN YOUR... *Heh...* "CAPABLE HANDS", PRIEST.
BUT WHAT OF YOU?
ME...?
WHAT OF **ME?**
HLFF!
WHDD
BEFORE THE BLOOD FLIES AND BONES CRACK ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE...
I NEED A TASTE OF **LIFE**, DEAR BATTIA!

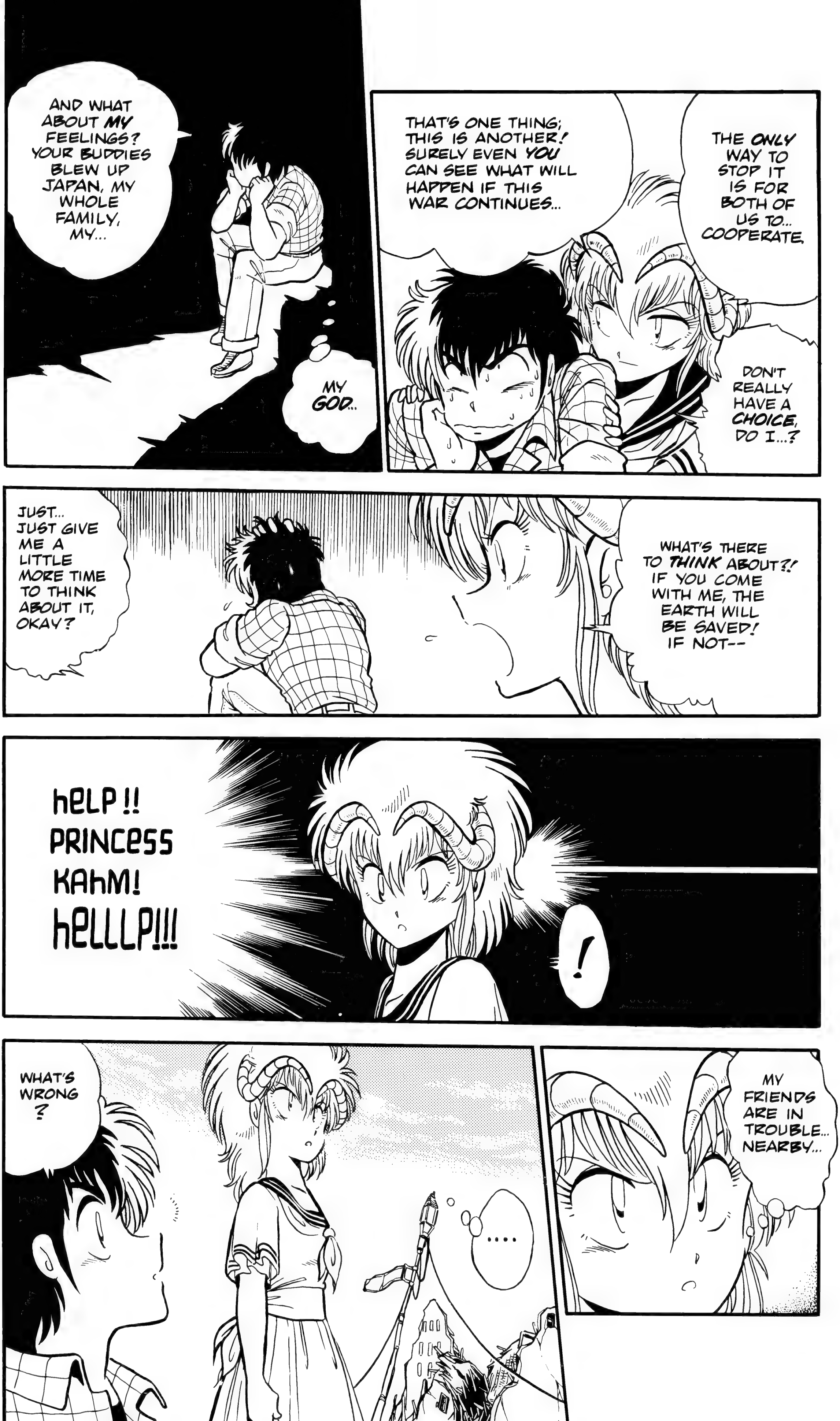


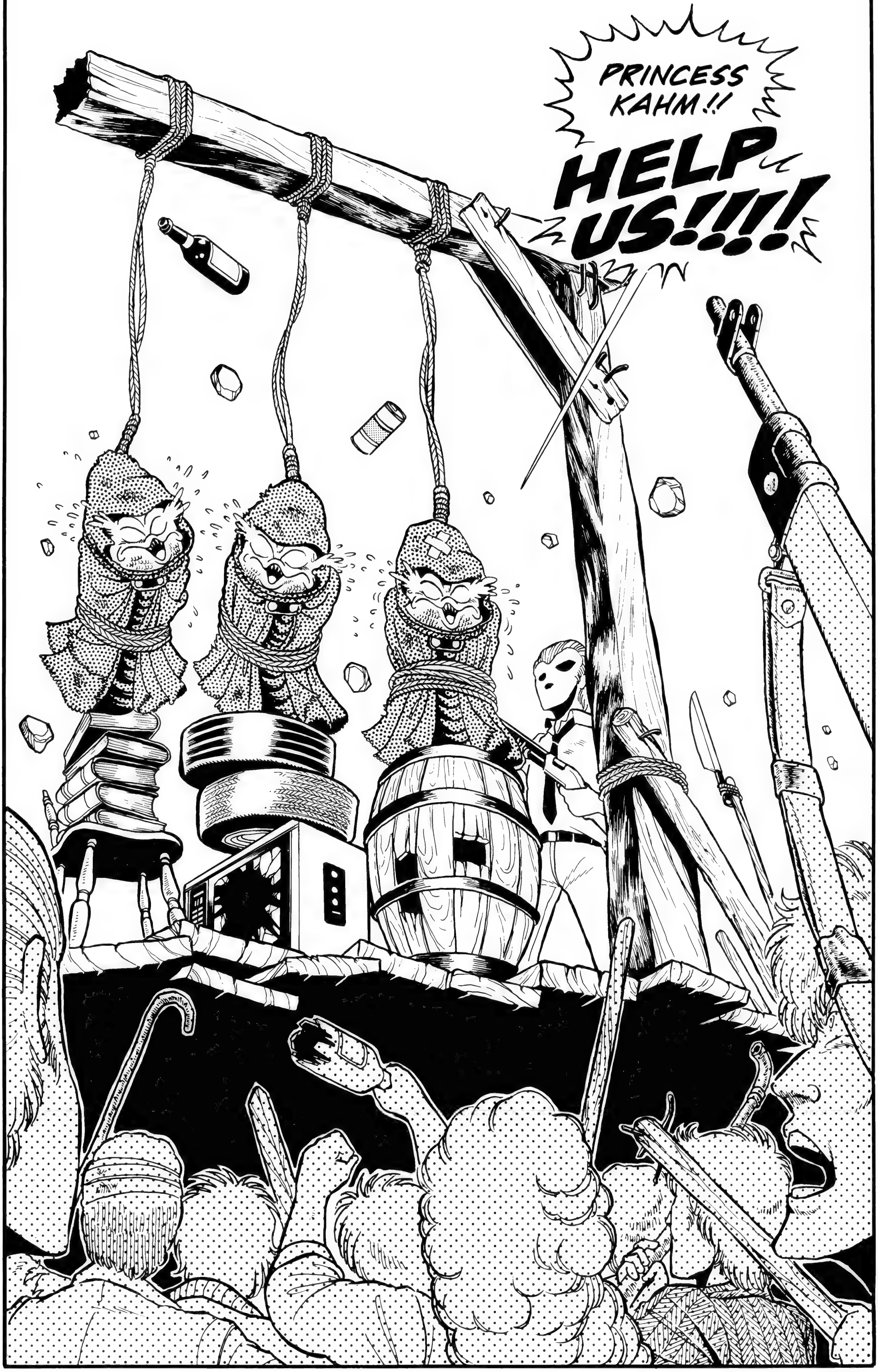

LOOKS LIKE THE ENTIRE CITY HAS BEEN LEVELED..
....
....
PLACE SEEMS TO BE DESERTED, ANYWAY... WE HAVEN'T SEEN A SOUL.
LOOK... LET'S SIT DOWN FOR A WHILE.
WE'VE BEEN WALKING SINCE DAWN--YOU MUST BE TIRED, *HMM?*
Whew...
SAY, KAHM...
...YOU SAID SOMETHING BEFORE ABOUT BEING A QUEEN OR A PRINCESS OR SOMETHING. DOES THAT MEAN YOUR PARENTS ARE THE BIGWIGS ON THIS, WHATSIT, *SANTOVASKU* PLANET?

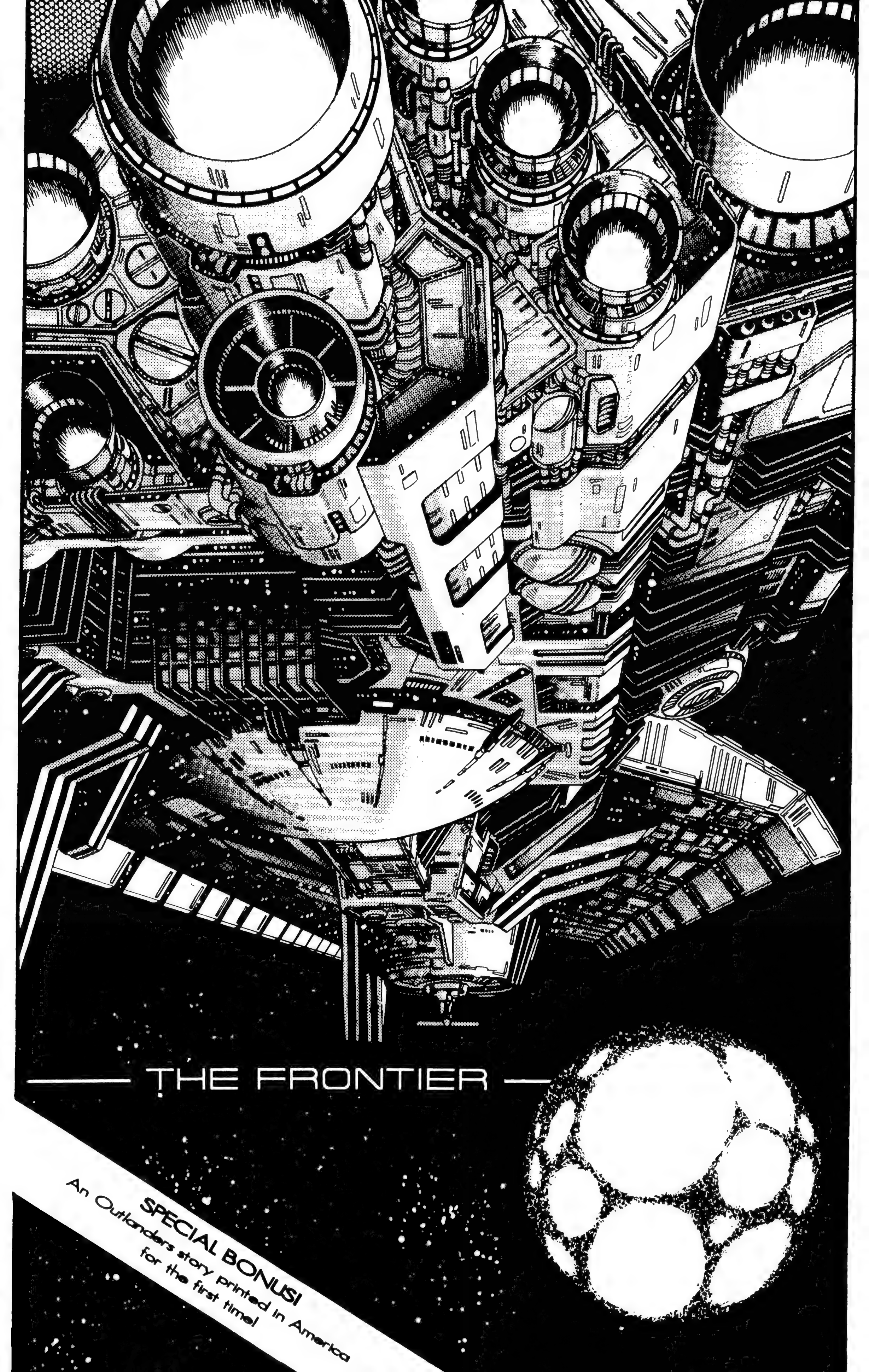

YEAH, IT'S TRUE...
MY FATHER'S THE EMPEROR OF THE WHOLE **SANTOVASKU EMPIRE**!
PRETTY **IMPRESSIVE**, Huh?
THEN **DO** SOMETHING FOR ME WHEN YOU GET BACK HOME, OKAY?
WHAT'S THAT?
ASK HIM TO STOP ATTACKING EARTH!
OH, HE WOULDN'T.
I MEAN, AFTER ALL, **YOU** CREATURES ARE THE INVADERS!
WHAT A **CROCK!!** HOW THE HELL CAN **WE** BE THE INVADERS, HUH?!
WE'VE BEEN LIVING ON THIS PLANET SINCE **WAY** BACK, GIRL!! **YOU'RE** THE DAMNED INVADERS!!
YOU'RE INVADERS 'CAUSE YOU **INVADED**!
OOHHH!! HOW **DARE** YOU!! YOU, YOU **VERMIN!!**
DON'T GIVE ME THAT **VERMIN** CRAP!! EARTH BELONGS TO **US**, AND I'LL BE **DAMNED** IF WE'LL LET YOU TAKE IT!!
OOOHH! **OOOHH!!** YOU JUST **WAIT**! WE'LL TAKE THIS PLANET BACK, YOU WAIT AND **SEE**!


THIS IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME!
OBVIOUSLY WE'RE NOT GOING TO AGREE...
ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW, THERE MIGHT BE JUST ONE WAY TO STOP THIS WAR...
REALLY ?!
YES...BUT IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU.
ME ?
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS SAY YOU'RE GOING TO MARRY ME!
SEE, THEN THIS PLANET WOULD BE AN ALLY OF THE EMPIRE. WE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO ATTACK IT ANYMORE.
KRAK
ERK


I... YOU... SAY WHAT?!?
WHERE THIS PLANET LIVES OR DIES HANGS ON YOUR ANSWER, DOESN'T IT, NOW?
SO WHAT'LL IT BE, BOY?
... ...
LOOK... IN ANY CASE, LET'S GO BACK TO MY HOME WORLD AND SAY THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO.
THAT WAY WE CAN BOTH TRY TO CONVINCE MY FATHER TO STOP.
Hmmm... I HAVEN'T GOT THE SLIGHTEST IDEA HOW THAT MIGHT TURN OUT...
TRUE, IT MIGHT LEAD TO THE END OF THE WAR... BUT TO GET MARRIED? JUST LIKE THAT?
HEY! WE'RE ALIENS TO EACH OTHER, YOU KNOW!
I MEAN, WHAT ABOUT DIFFERENT CUSTOMS AND STUFF? WHERE WOULD WE LIVE, FOR EXAMPLE? AND...
AND WHAT IF OUR BODIES WON'T...YOU KNOW...
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW SINCE YOU UNDRESSED ME, YES? IF WE WERE ALL THAT DIFFERENT YOU WOULDN'T GET THAT...THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES WHEN YOU WATCH ME!
I... ER... WELL...
THEN AGAIN... MAYBE YOU AREN'T BUILT THE SAME AS OUR MALES...?
AW, COME ON!!
YOU AREN'T REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS MARRIAGE THING, ARE YOU?
I MEAN, JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, YOU WERE CHASING ME AROUND WITH A SWORD!

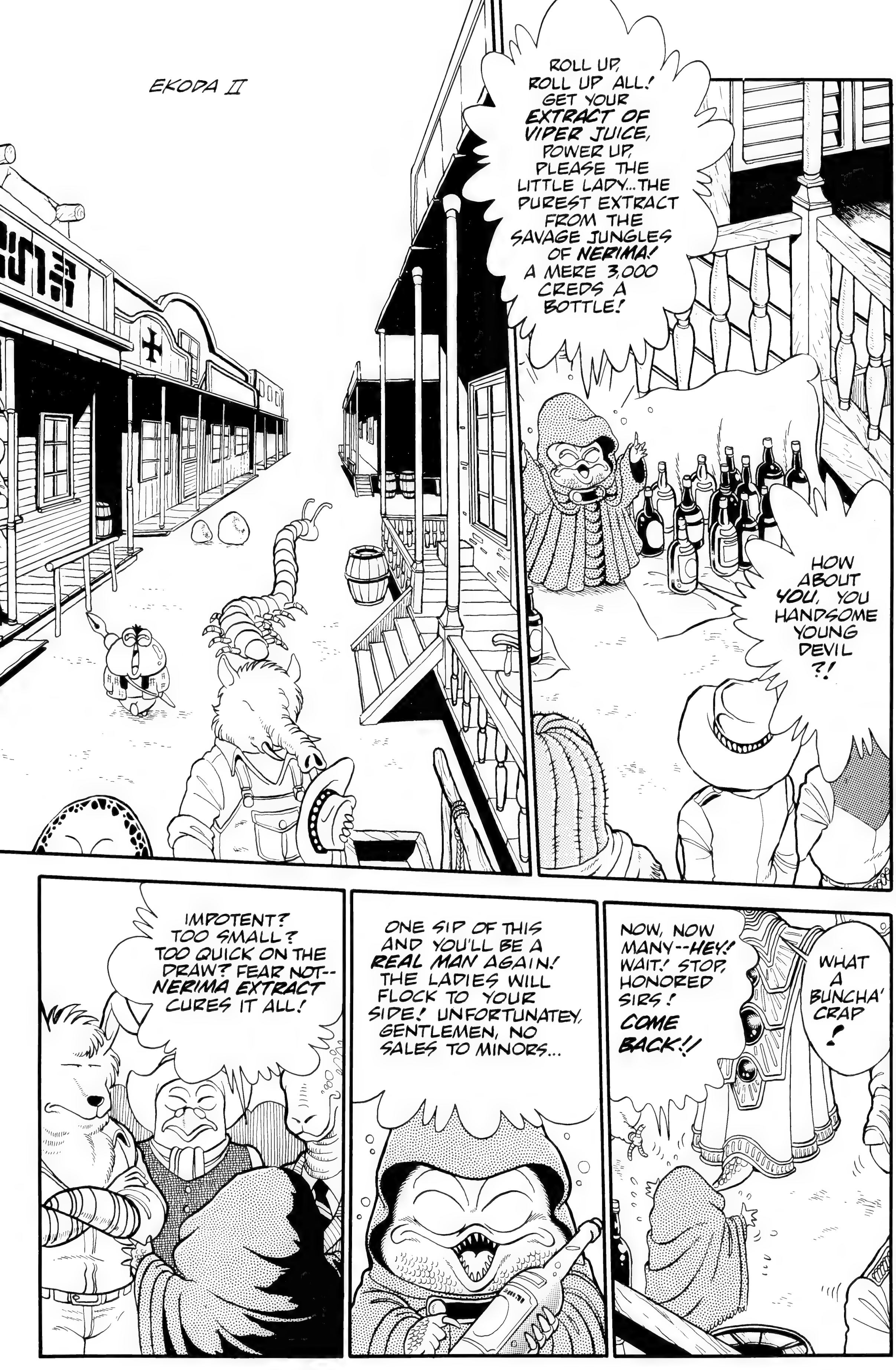

AND WHAT ABOUT *MY* FEELINGS? YOUR BUDDIES BLEW UP JAPAN, MY WHOLE FAMILY, MY...
MY *GOD*...
THAT'S ONE THING; THIS IS ANOTHER! SURELY EVEN *YOU* CAN SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS WAR CONTINUES...
THE *ONLY* WAY TO STOP IT IS FOR BOTH OF US TO... COOPERATE.
DON'T REALLY HAVE A *CHOICE*, DO I...?
JUST... JUST GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY?
WHAT'S THERE TO *THINK* ABOUT?! IF YOU COME WITH ME, THE EARTH WILL BE SAVED! IF NOT--
HELP!! PRINCESS KAHM! HELLLP!!!
!
WHAT'S WRONG?
....
MY FRIENDS ARE IN TROUBLE... NEARBY...

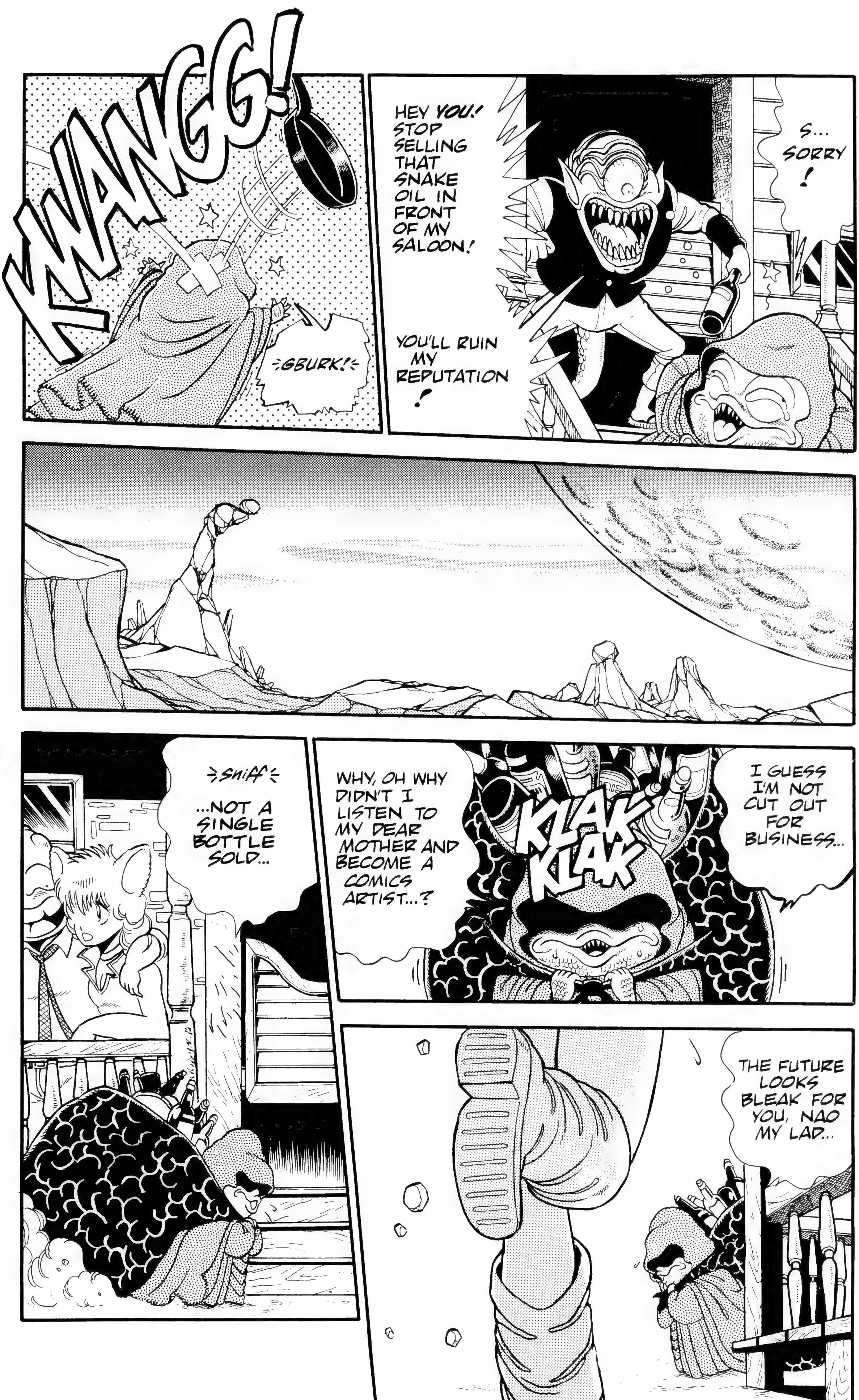

PRINCESS KAHM!!
HELP US!!!!

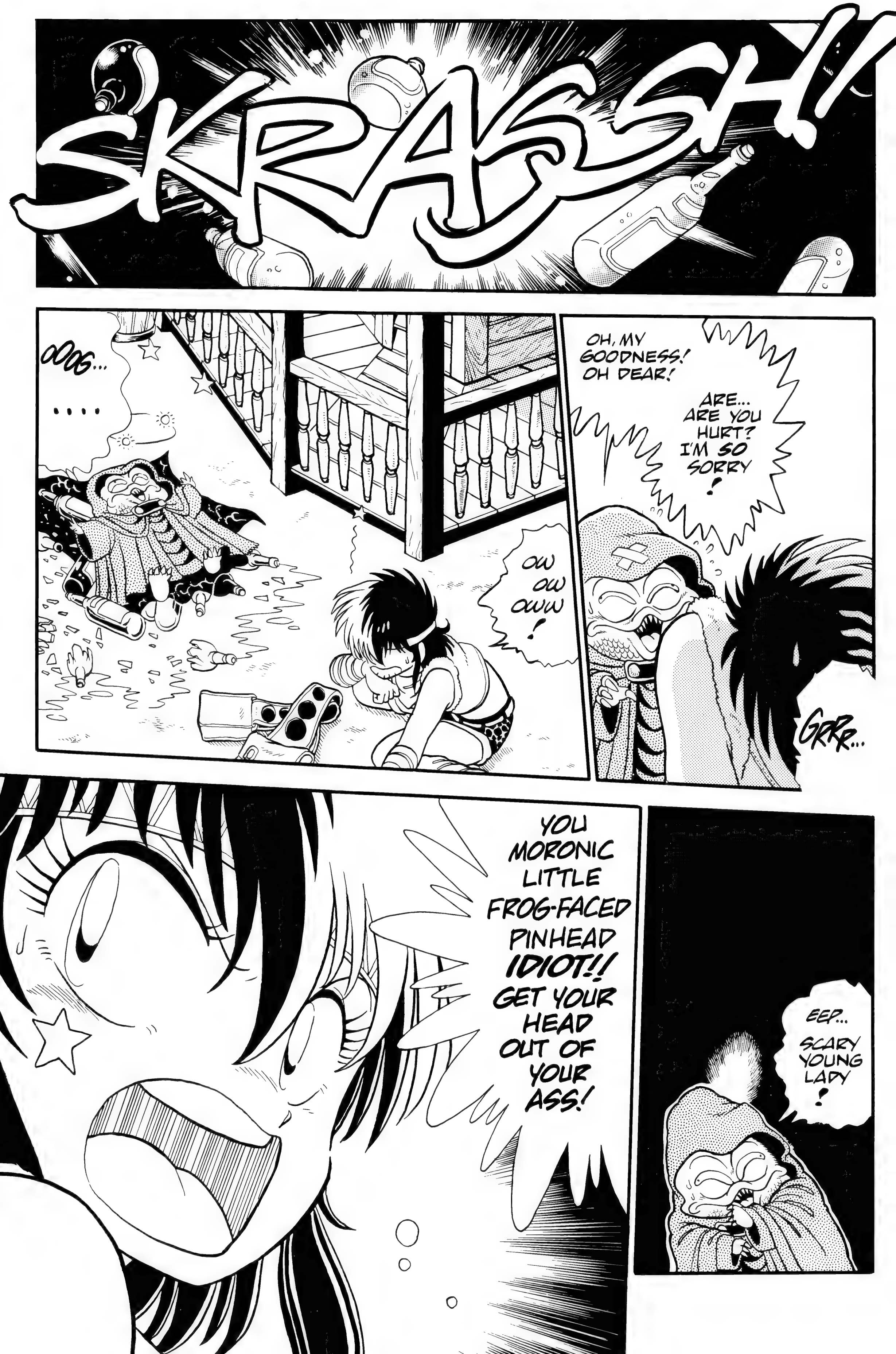


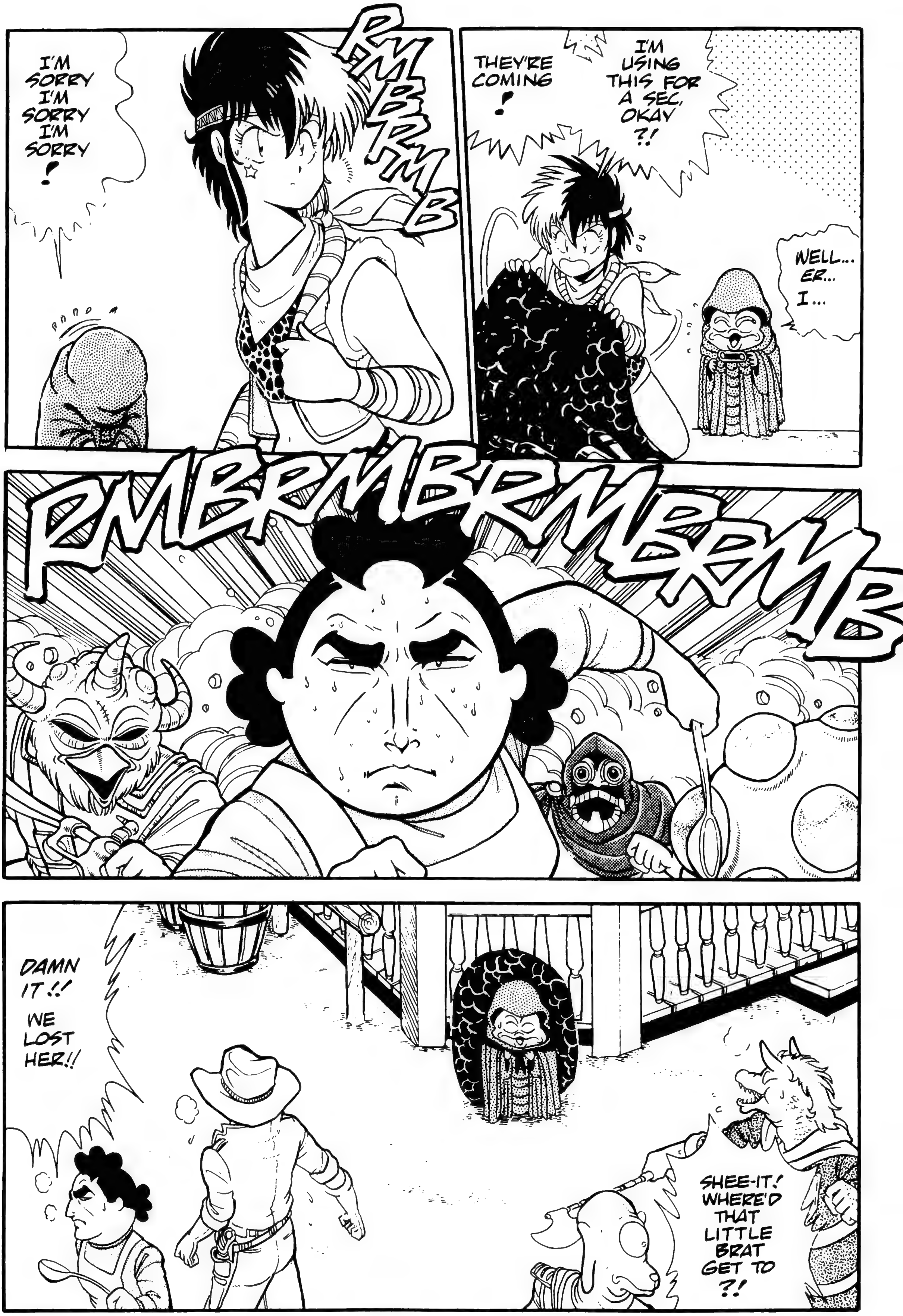
THE FRONTIER

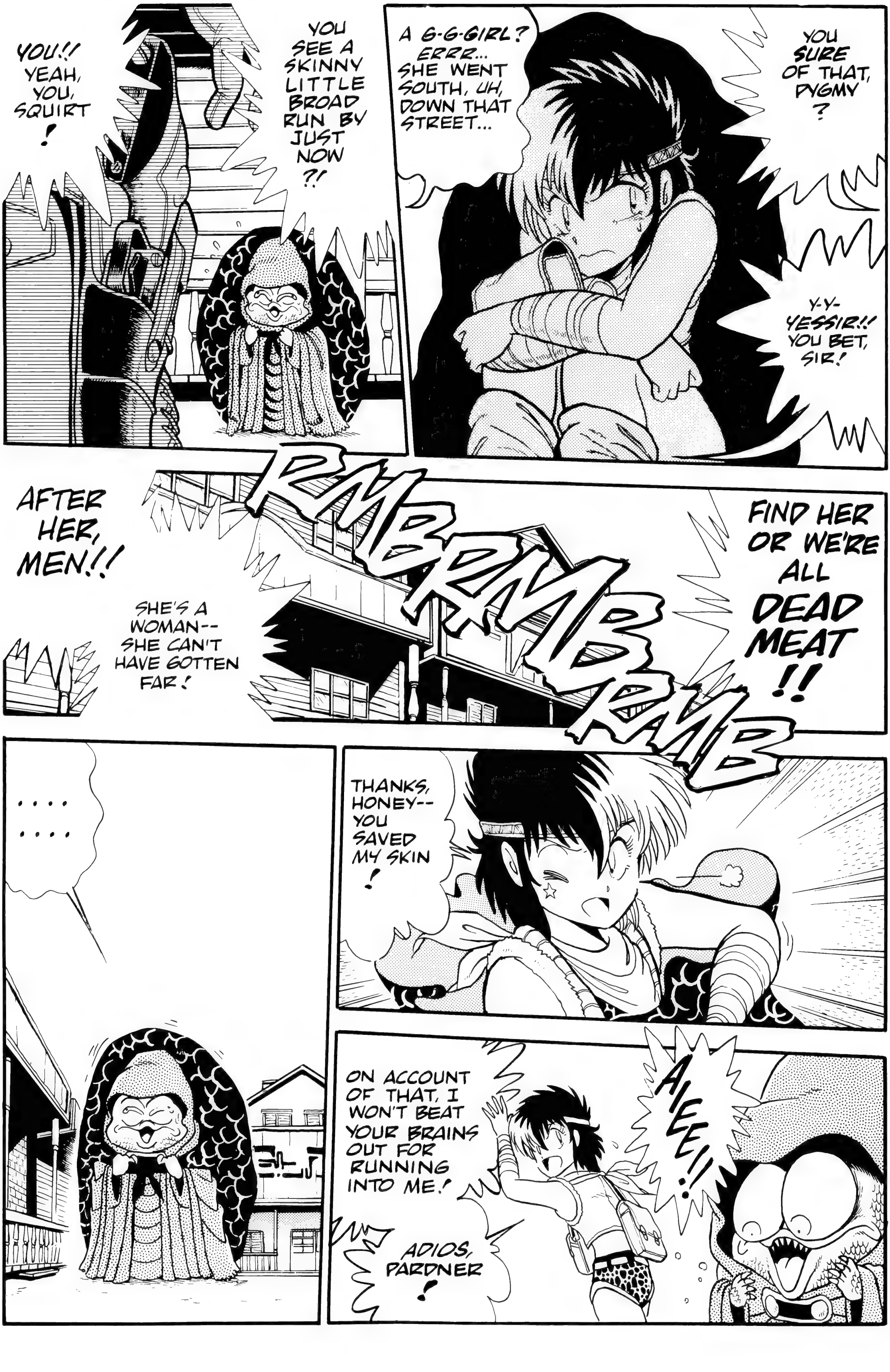
SPECIAL BONUS!
An Outlanders story printed in America
for the first time!

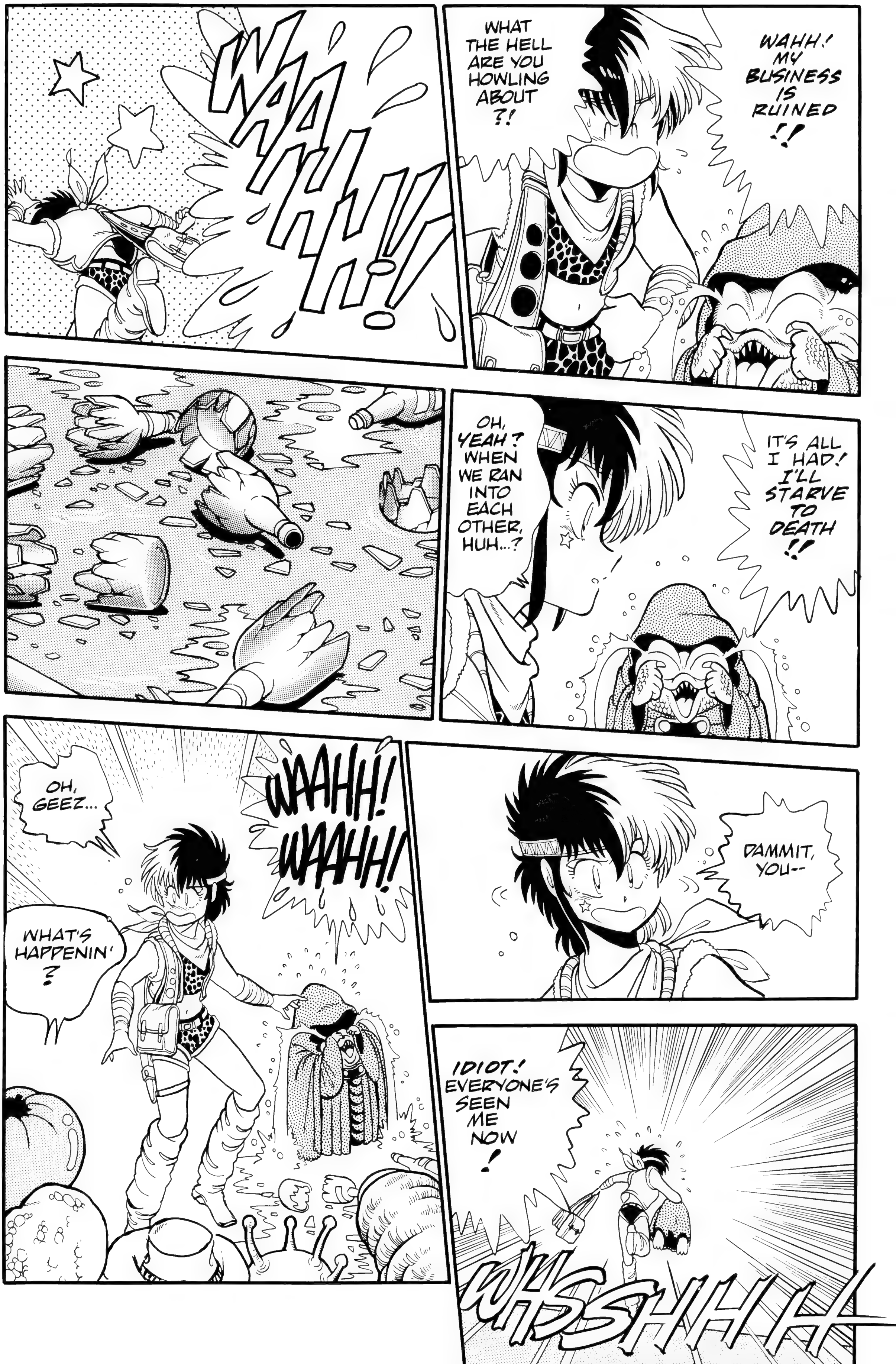

EKODA II
ROLL UP, ROLL UP ALL! GET YOUR EXTRACT OF VIPER JUICE, POWER UP, PLEASE THE LITTLE LADY... THE PUREST EXTRACT FROM THE SAVAGE JUNGLES OF NERIMA! A MERE 3,000 CREDS A BOTTLE!
HOW ABOUT YOU, YOU HANDSOME YOUNG DEVIL ?!
IMPOTENT? TOO SMALL? TOO QUICK ON THE DRAW? FEAR NOT-- NERIMA EXTRACT CURES IT ALL!
ONE SIP OF THIS AND YOU'LL BE A REAL MAN AGAIN! THE LADIES WILL FLOCK TO YOUR SIDE! UNFORTUNATEY, GENTLEMEN, NO SALES TO MINORS...
NOW, NOW MANY--HEY! WAIT! STOP, HONORED SIRS! COME BACK!!
WHAT A BUNCHA' CRAP!

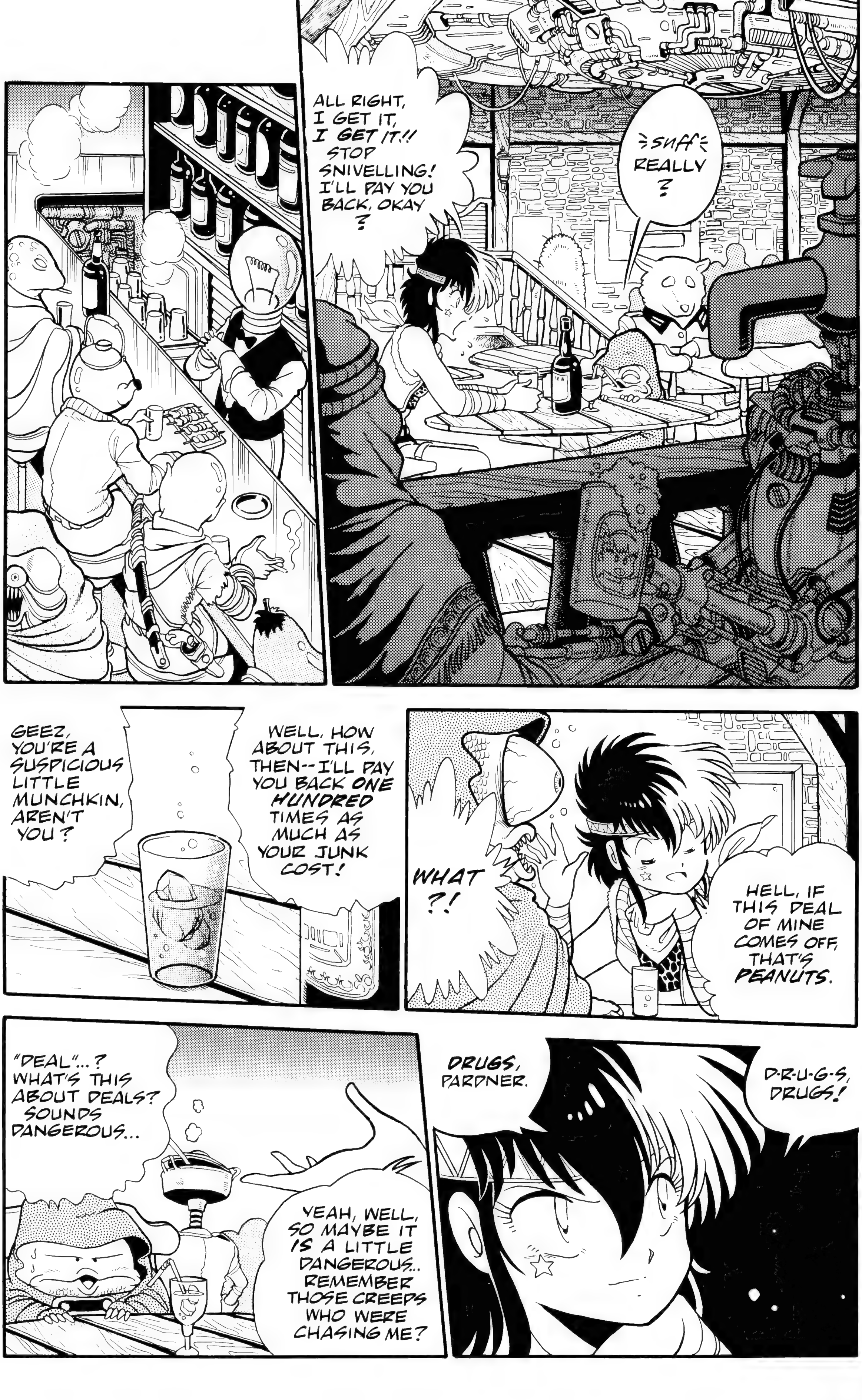

KWANGG!
GBURK!
HEY YOU! STOP SELLING THAT SNAKE OIL IN FRONT OF MY SALOON!
YOU'LL RUIN MY REPUTATION!
S... SORRY!
sniff
...NOT A SINGLE BOTTLE SOLD...
WHY, OH WHY DIDN'T I LISTEN TO MY DEAR MOTHER AND BECOME A COMICS ARTIST...?
KLAK KLAK
I GUESS I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR BUSINESS...
THE FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK FOR YOU, NAO MY LAD...

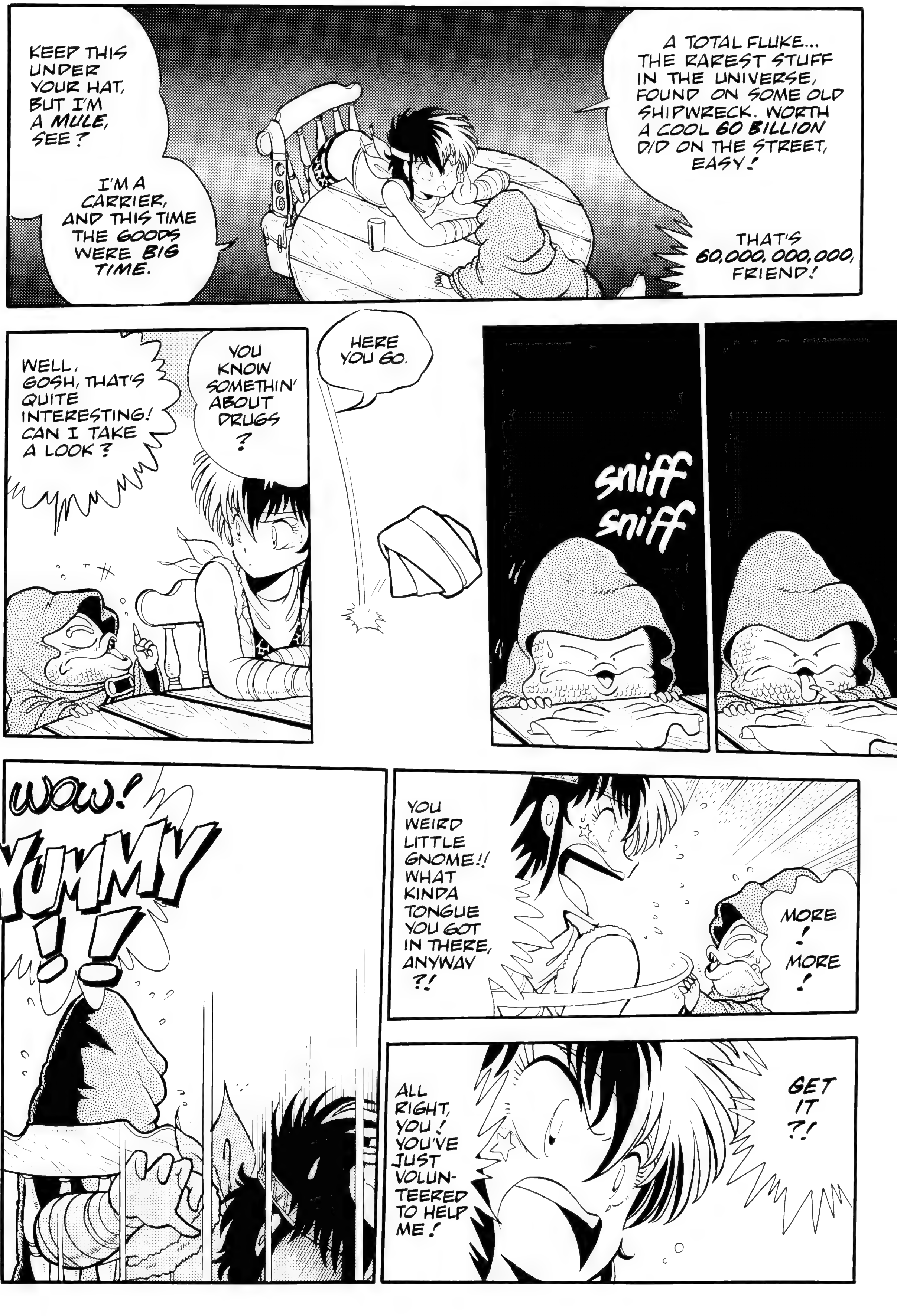

SKRASSH!!
OOOG...
....
OW OW OWW!
OH, MY GOODNESS! OH DEAR!
ARE... ARE YOU HURT? I'M SO SORRY!
GRRR...
YOU MORONIC LITTLE FROG-FACED PINHEAD IDIOT!! GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS!
EEP... SCARY YOUNG LADY!

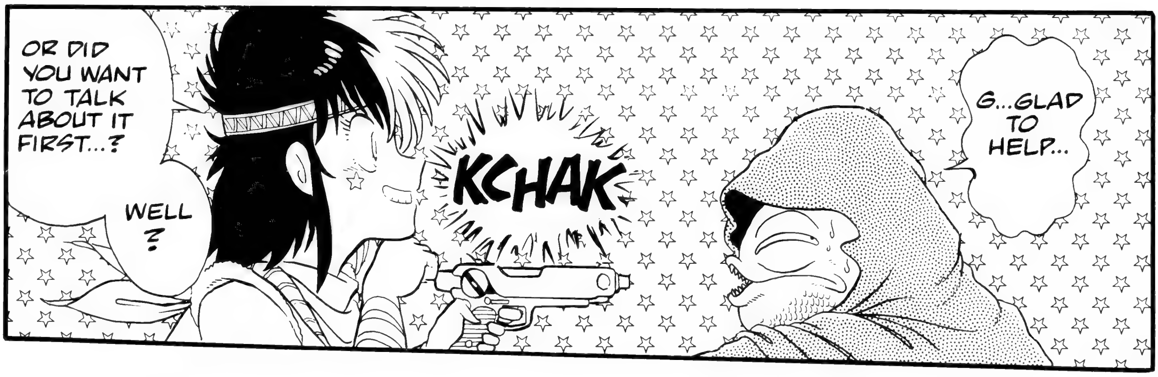

I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!
RMBRMB
THEY'RE COMING!
I'M USING THIS FOR A SEC, OKAY?!
WELL... ER... I...
RMBRMBRMBRMBRMB
DAMN IT!! WE LOST HER!!
SHEE-IT! WHERE'D THAT LITTLE BRAT GET TO?!


YOU!! YEAH, YOU, SQUIRT!
YOU SEE A SKINNY LITTLE BROAD RUN BY JUST NOW?!
A G-G-GIRL? ERRR... SHE WENT SOUTH, UH, DOWN THAT STREET...
YOU SURE OF THAT, PYGMY?
Y-Y-YESSIR!! YOU BET, SIR!
AFTER HER, MEN!!
SHE'S A WOMAN-- SHE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!
RMBRMBRMB
FIND HER OR WE'RE ALL DEAD MEAT!!
....
....
THANKS, HONEY-- YOU SAVED MY SKIN!
ON ACCOUNT OF THAT, I WON'T BEAT YOUR BRAINS OUT FOR RUNNING INTO ME!
AIEE!!
ADIOS, PARDNER!

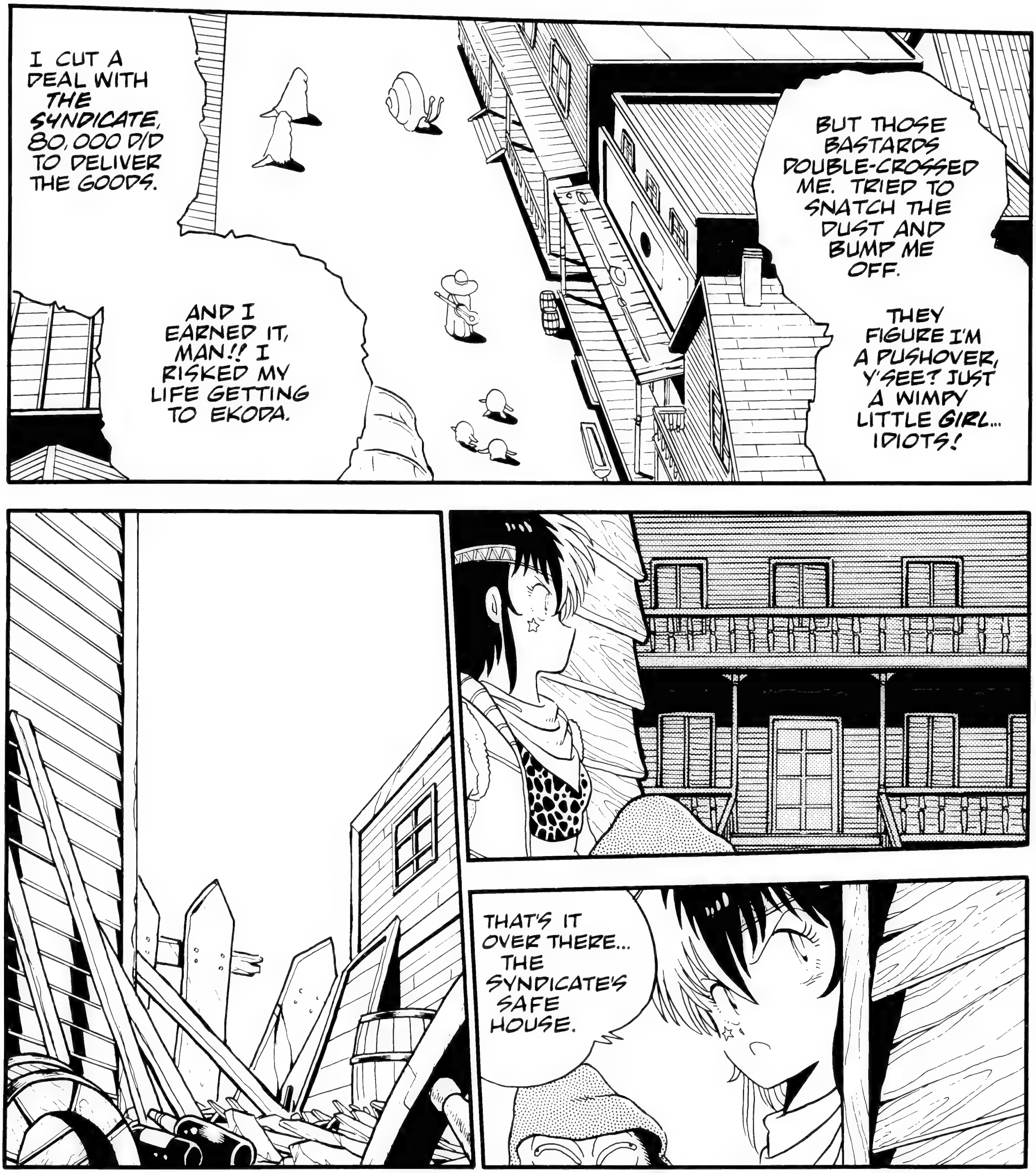

WAAHH!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU HOWLING ABOUT ?!
WAHH! MY BUSINESS IS RUINED !!
OH, YEAH? WHEN WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER, HUH...?
IT'S ALL I HAD! I'LL STARVE TO DEATH !!
OH, GEEZ...
WAAHH! WAAHH!
WHAT'S HAPPENIN' ?
DAMMIT, YOU--
IDIOT! EVERYONE'S SEEN ME NOW !
WHSSHHHH

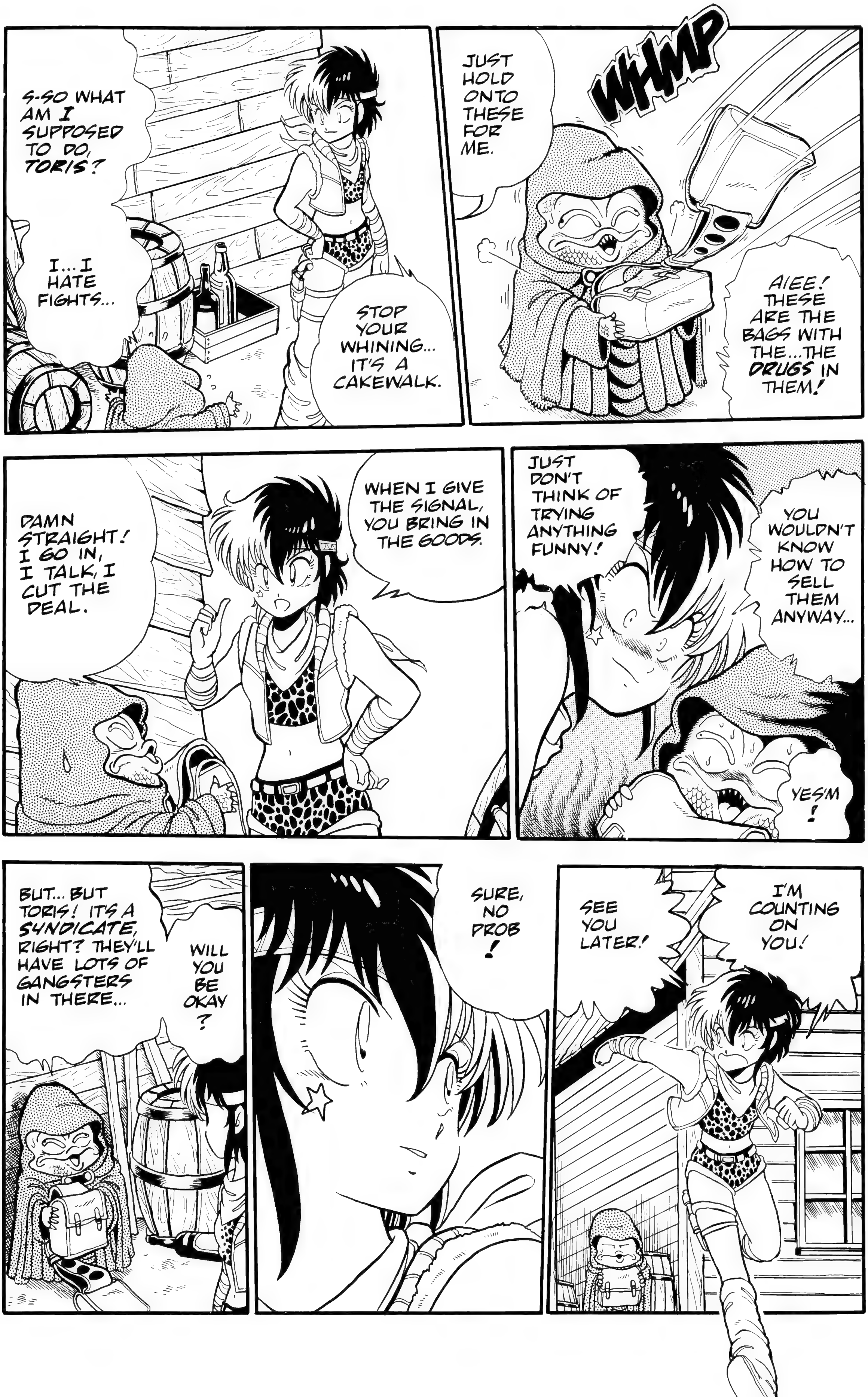

ALL RIGHT, I GET IT, I GET IT!! STOP SNIVELLING! I'LL PAY YOU BACK, OKAY?
snff REALLY?
GEEZ, YOU'RE A SUSPICIOUS LITTLE MUNCHKIN, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN--I'LL PAY YOU BACK ONE HUNDRED TIMES AS MUCH AS YOUR JUNK COST!
WHAT?!
HELL, IF THIS DEAL OF MINE COMES OFF, THAT'S PEANUTS.
"DEAL"...? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT DEALS? SOUNDS DANGEROUS...
YEAH, WELL, SO MAYBE IT IS A LITTLE DANGEROUS.. REMEMBER THOSE CREEPS WHO WERE CHASING ME?
DRUGS, PARDNER.
D-R-U-G-S, DRUGS!

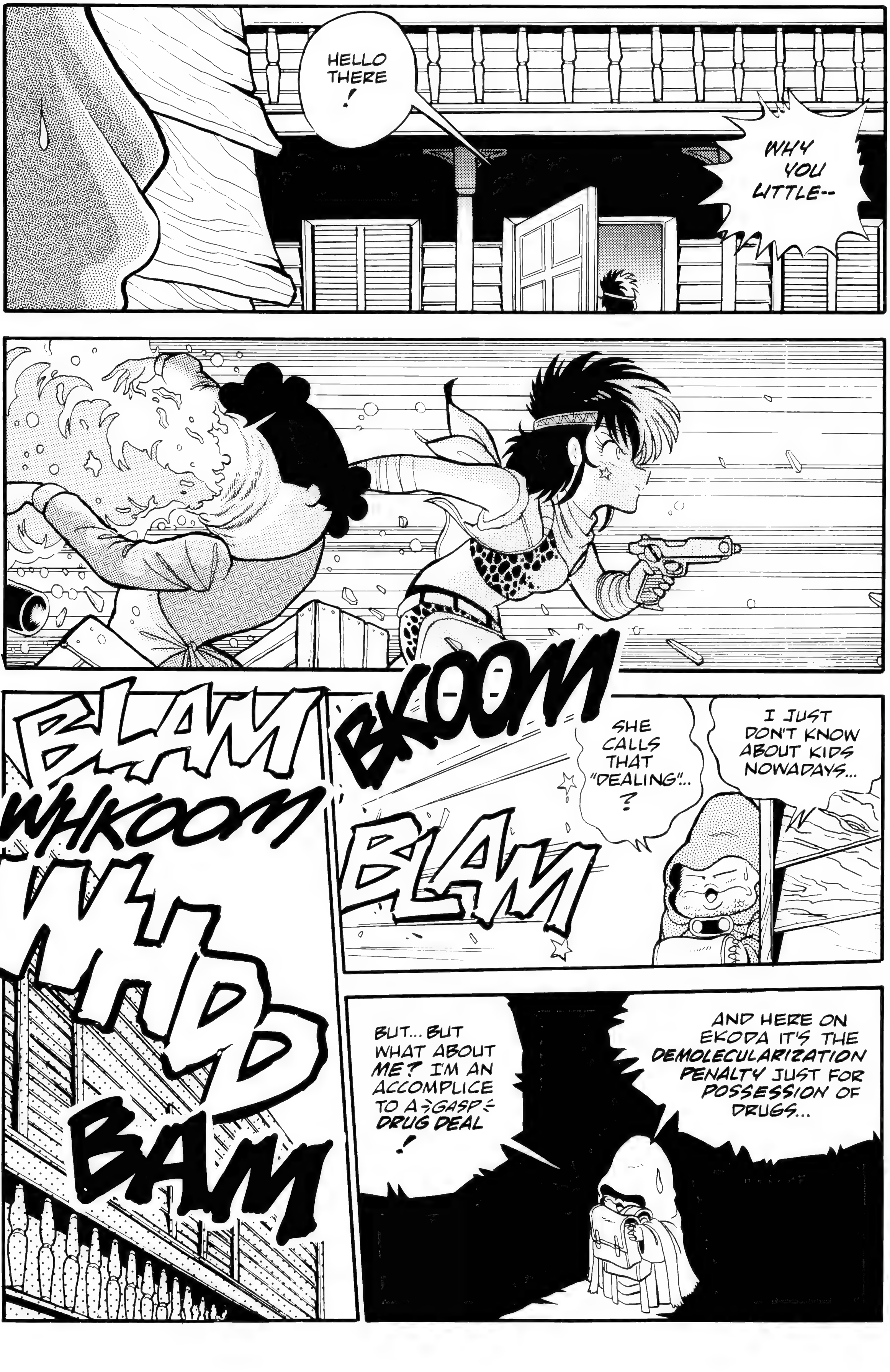

KEEP THIS UNDER YOUR HAT, BUT I'M A *MULE*, SEE?
I'M A CARRIER, AND THIS TIME THE *GOODS* WERE *BIG TIME*.
A TOTAL FLUKE... THE RAREST STUFF IN THE UNIVERSE, FOUND ON SOME OLD SHIPWRECK. WORTH A COOL *60 BILLION* D/D ON THE STREET, EASY!
THAT'S *60,000,000,000*, FRIEND!
WELL, GOSH, THAT'S QUITE INTERESTING! CAN I TAKE A LOOK?
YOU KNOW SOMETHIN' ABOUT DRUGS?
HERE YOU GO.
sniff sniff
WOW!
YUMMY!!
YOU WEIRD LITTLE GNOME!! WHAT KINDA TONGUE YOU GOT IN THERE, ANYWAY?!
MORE! MORE!
ALL RIGHT, YOU! YOU'VE JUST VOLUNTEERED TO HELP ME!
GET IT?!

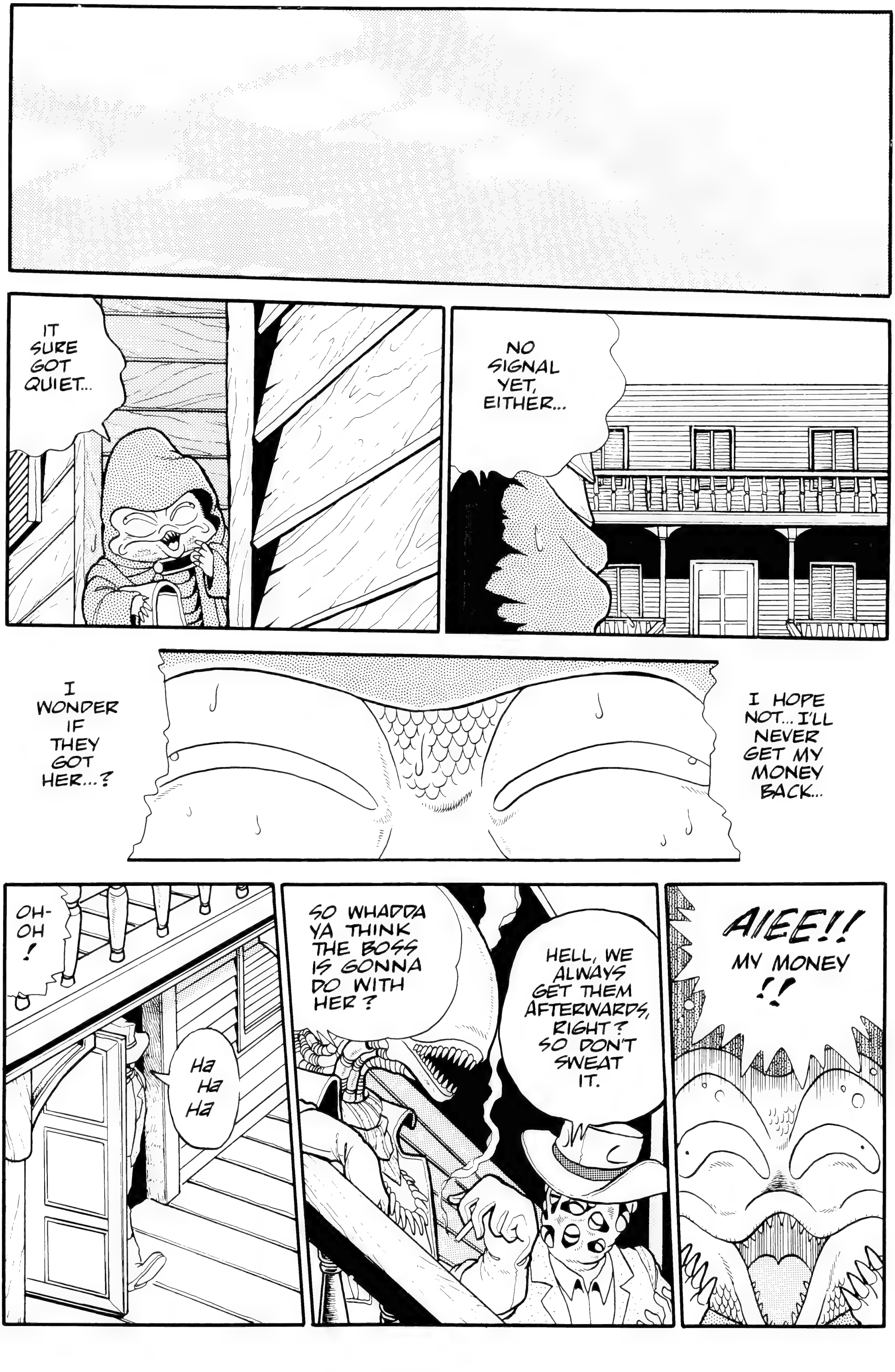

OR DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT FIRST...?
WELL?
KCHAK
G...GLAD TO HELP...

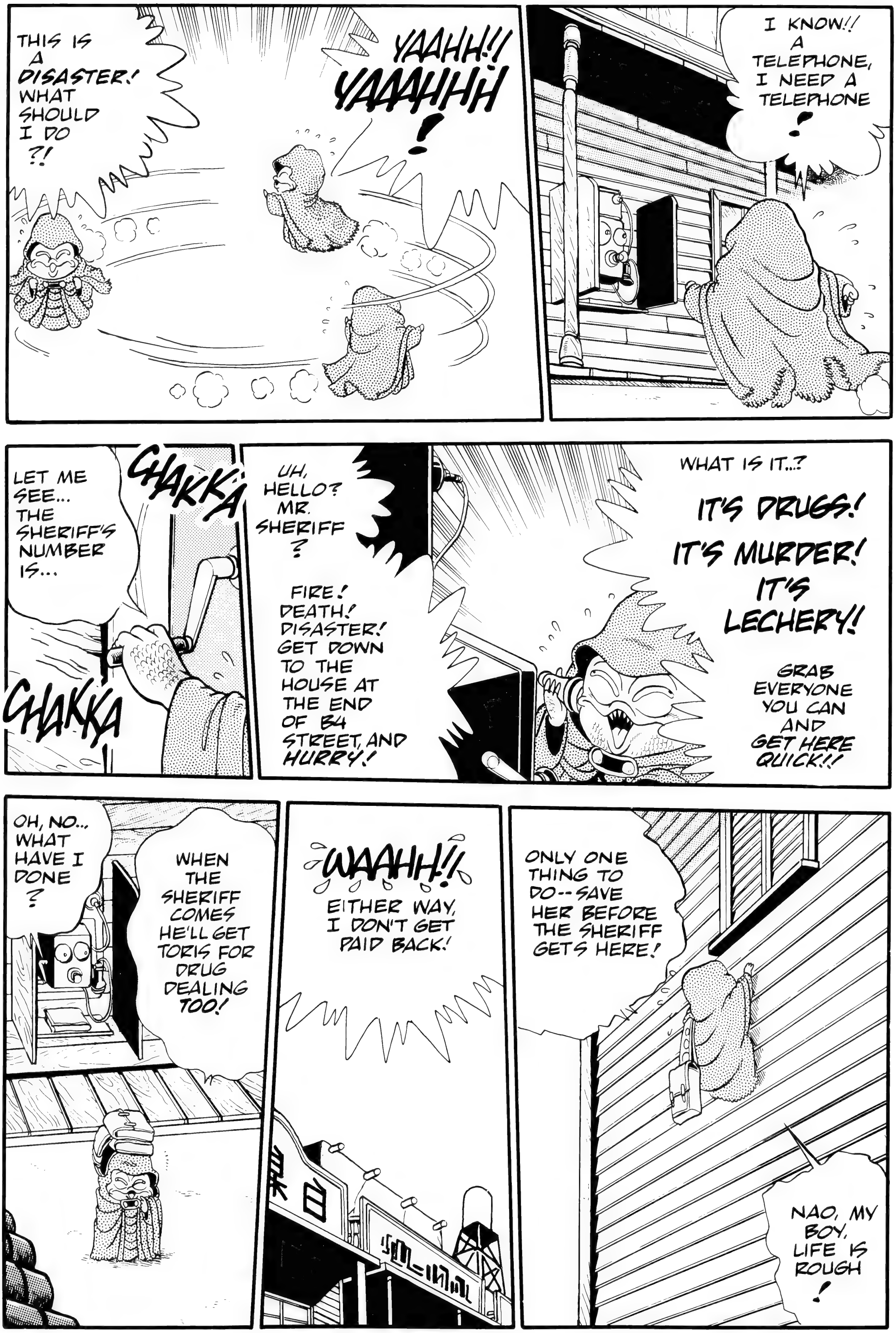
THE NEXT DAY

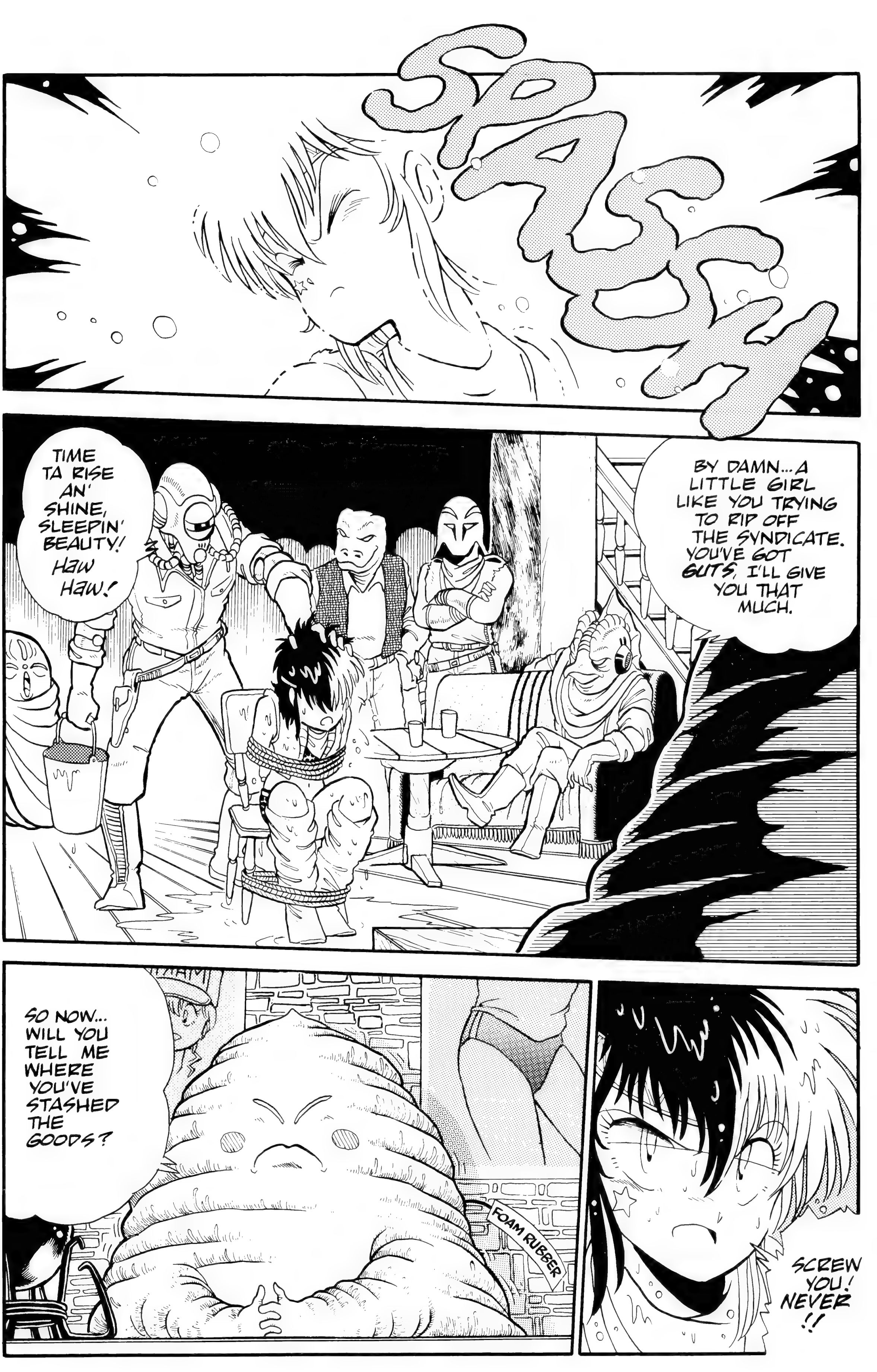

I CUT A DEAL WITH THE SYNDICATE, 80,000 D/D TO DELIVER THE GOODS.
AND I EARNED IT, MAN!! I RISKED MY LIFE GETTING TO EKODA.
BUT THOSE BASTARDS DOUBLE-CROSSED ME. TRIED TO SNATCH THE DUST AND BUMP ME OFF.
THEY FIGURE I'M A PUSHOVER, Y'SEE? JUST A WIMPY LITTLE GIRL... IDIOTS!
THAT'S IT OVER THERE... THE SYNDICATE'S SAFE HOUSE.

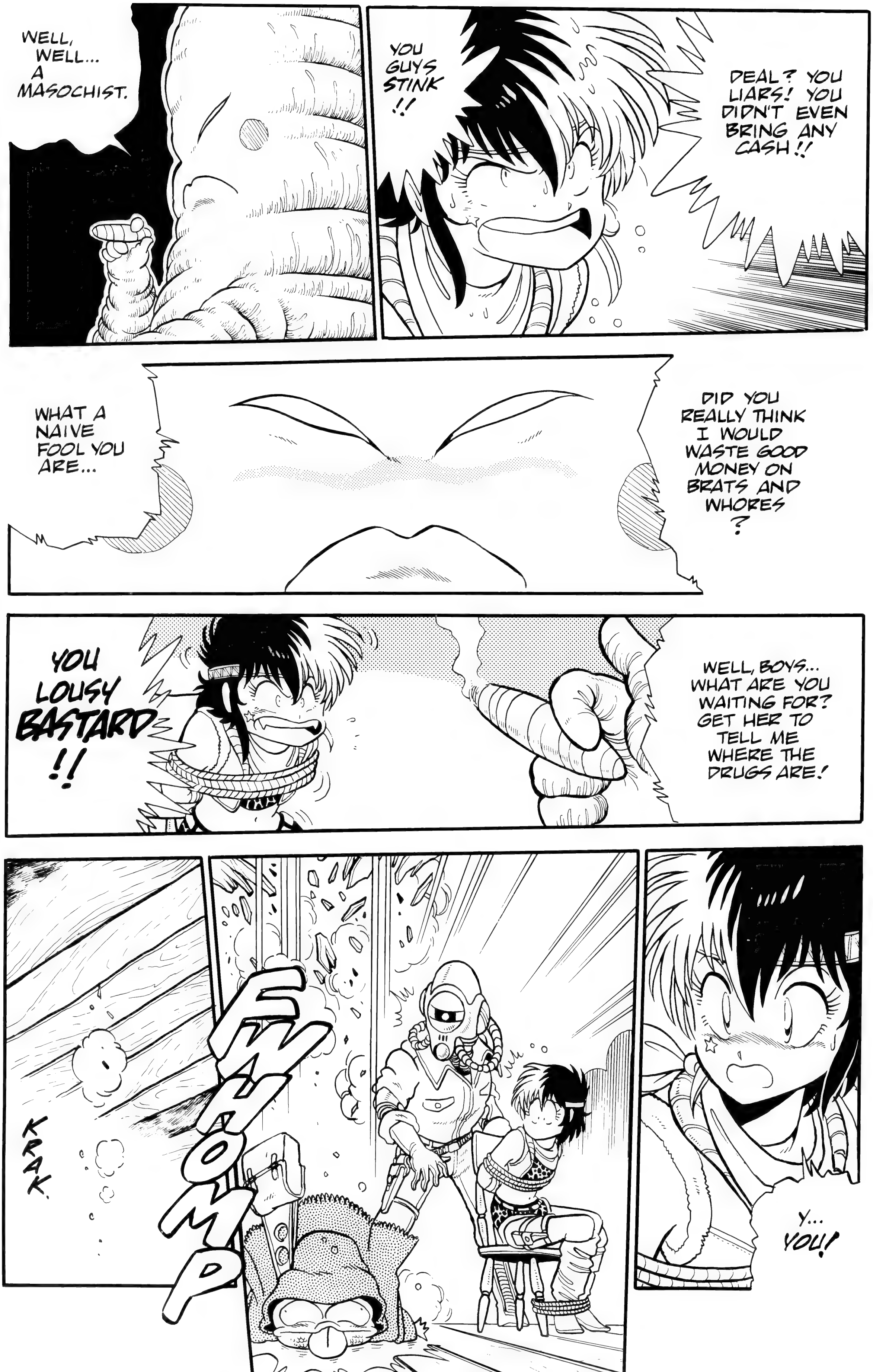

S-SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, TORIS?
I... I HATE FIGHTS...
STOP YOUR WHINING... IT'S A CAKEWALK.
JUST HOLD ONTO THESE FOR ME.
WHMP
AIEE! THESE ARE THE BAGS WITH THE...THE DRUGS IN THEM!
DAMN STRAIGHT! I GO IN, I TALK, I CUT THE DEAL.
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, YOU BRING IN THE GOODS.
JUST DON'T THINK OF TRYING ANYTHING FUNNY!
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO SELL THEM ANYWAY...
YES'M!
BUT... BUT TORIS! IT'S A SYNDICATE, RIGHT? THEY'LL HAVE LOTS OF GANGSTERS IN THERE...
WILL YOU BE OKAY?
SURE, NO PROB!
SEE YOU LATER!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!

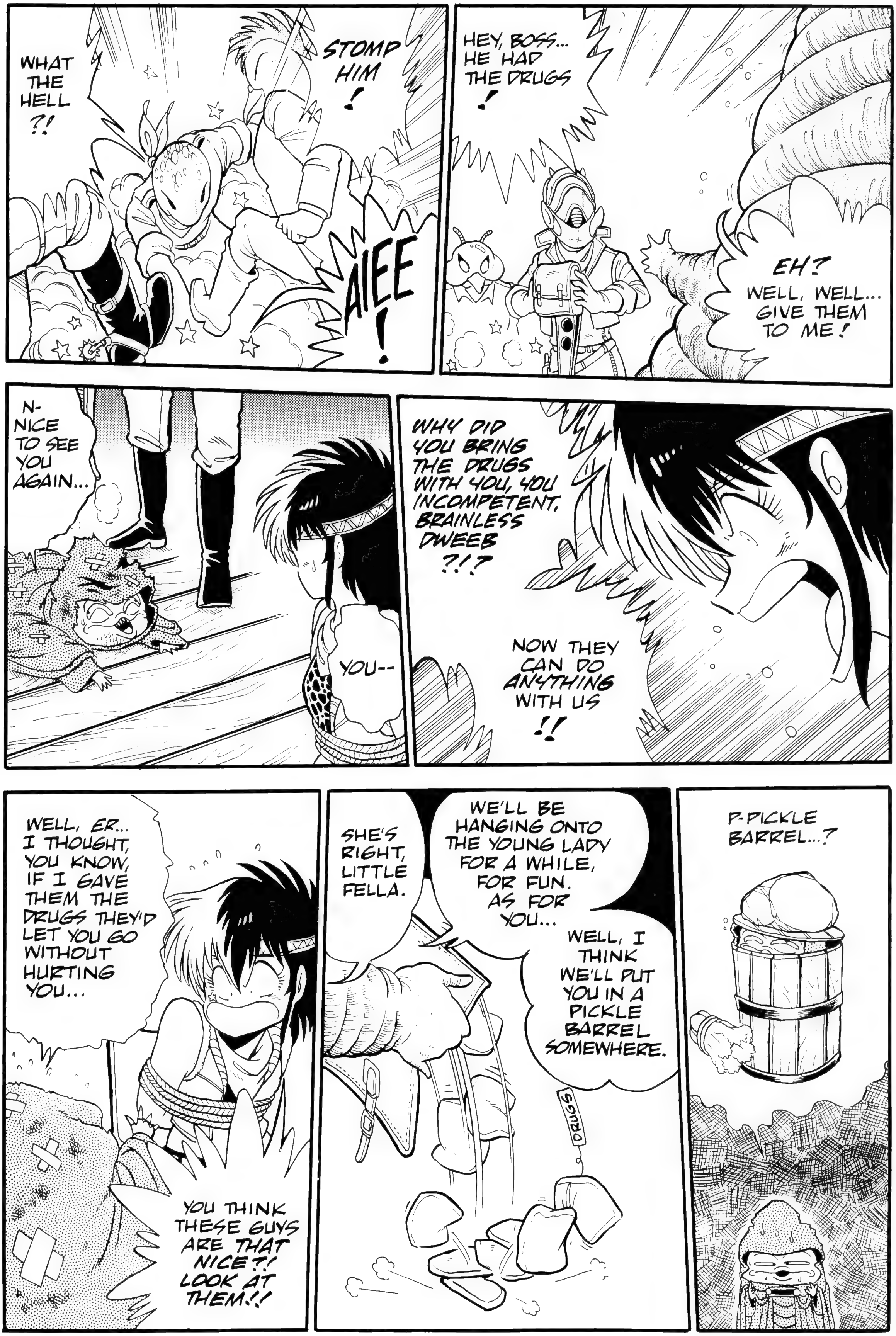

HELLO THERE!
WHY YOU LITTLE--
BLAM
WHKOOM
WHUDD
BAM
BKOOM
BLAM
SHE CALLS THAT "DEALING"...?
I JUST DON'T KNOW ABOUT KIDS NOWADAYS...
BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT **ME?** I'M AN ACCOMPLICE TO A ⇒GASP⇐ **DRUG DEAL**!
AND HERE ON EKODA IT'S THE **DEMOLECULARIZATION PENALTY** JUST FOR **POSSESSION** OF DRUGS...

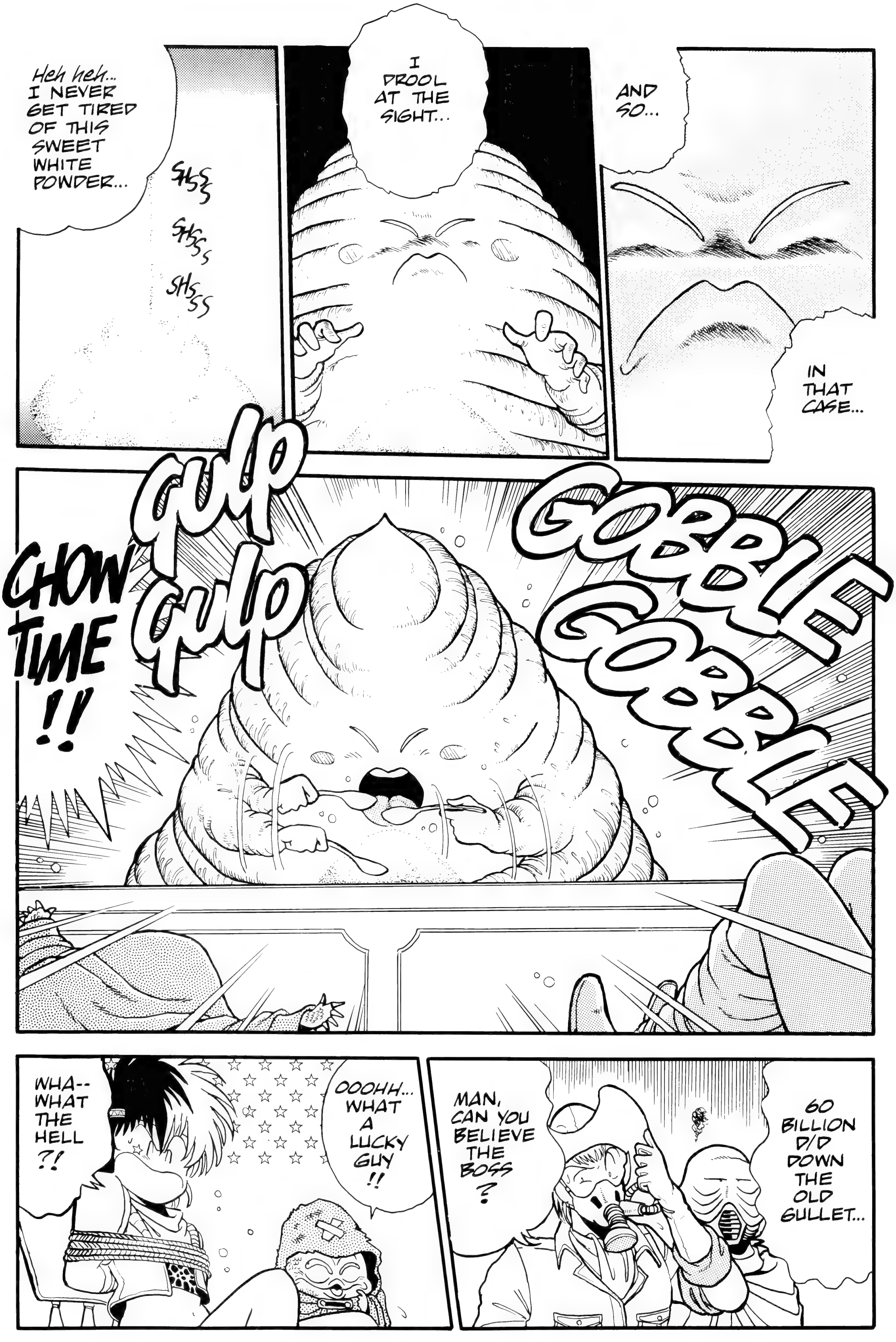

IT SURE GOT QUIET...
NO SIGNAL YET, EITHER...
I WONDER IF THEY GOT HER...?
I HOPE NOT... I'LL NEVER GET MY MONEY BACK...
OH-OH!
Ha Ha Ha
SO WHADDA YA THINK THE BOSS IS GONNA DO WITH HER?
HELL, WE ALWAYS GET THEM AFTERWARDS, RIGHT? SO DON'T SWEAT IT.
AIEE!! MY MONEY!!

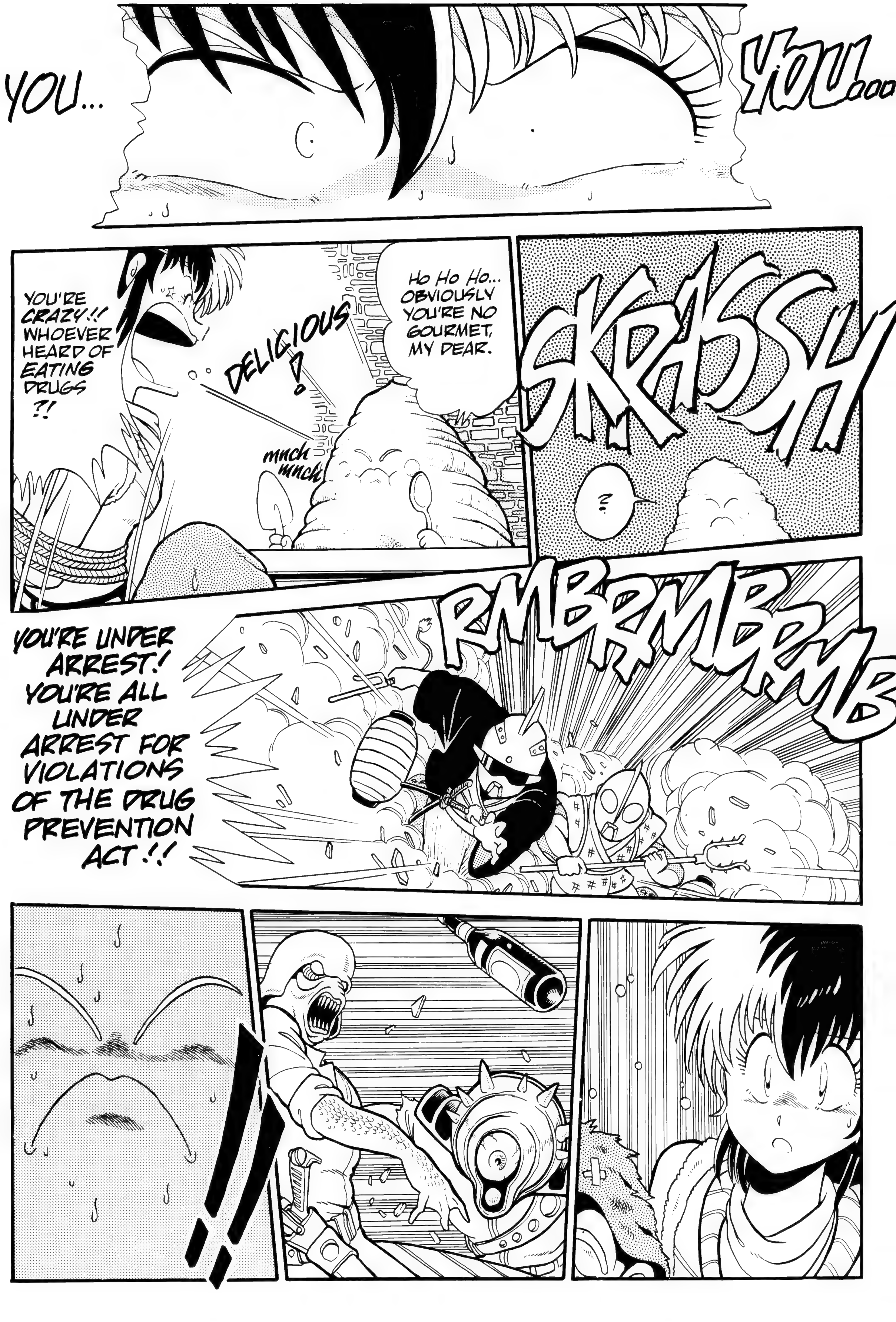

THIS IS A DISASTER! WHAT SHOULD I DO ?!
YAAHH!! YAAAHHH!
I KNOW!! A TELEPHONE, I NEED A TELEPHONE!
LET ME SEE... THE SHERIFF'S NUMBER IS...
CHAKKA
CHAKKA
UH, HELLO? MR. SHERIFF?
FIRE! DEATH! DISASTER! GET DOWN TO THE HOUSE AT THE END OF B4 STREET, AND HURRY!
WHAT IS IT...?
IT'S DRUGS! IT'S MURDER! IT'S LECHERY!
GRAB EVERYONE YOU CAN AND GET HERE QUICK!!
OH, NO... WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHEN THE SHERIFF COMES HE'LL GET TORIS FOR DRUG DEALING TOO!
WAAHH!!
EITHER WAY, I DON'T GET PAID BACK!
ONLY ONE THING TO DO--SAVE HER BEFORE THE SHERIFF GETS HERE!
NAO, MY BOY, LIFE IS ROUGH!

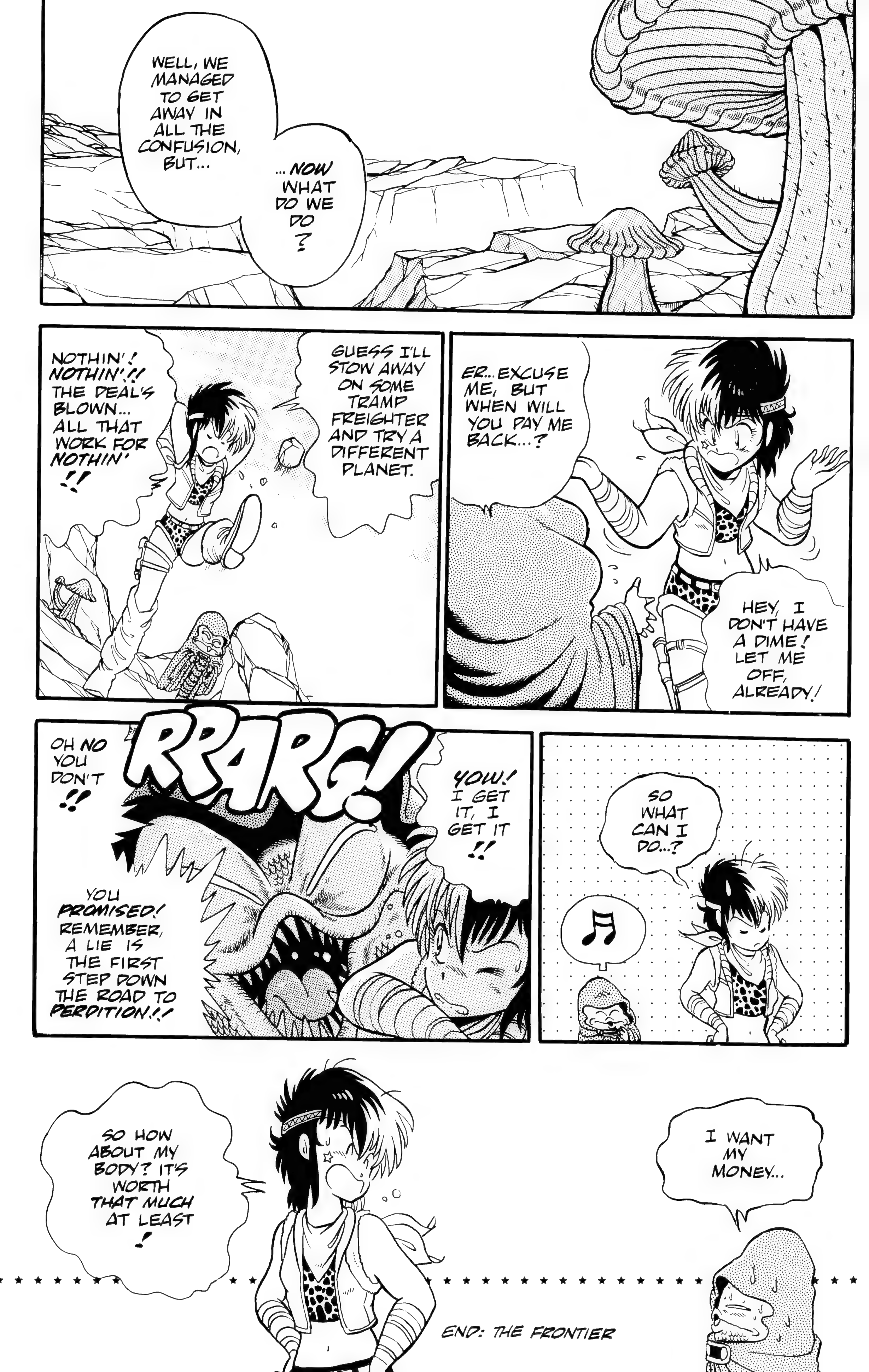

SPASSH!
TIME TA RISE AN' SHINE, SLEEPIN' BEAUTY! *Haw Haw!*
BY DAMN... A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU TRYING TO RIP OFF THE SYNDICATE. YOU'VE GOT *GUTS*, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT MUCH.
SO NOW... WILL YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE STASHED THE GOODS?
FOAM RUBBER
SCREW YOU! NEVER!!


WELL, WELL... A MASOCHIST.
YOU GUYS STINK !!
DEAL? YOU LIARS! YOU DIDN'T EVEN BRING ANY CASH !!
WHAT A NAIVE FOOL YOU ARE...
DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD WASTE GOOD MONEY ON BRATS AND WHORES ?
YOU LOUSY BASTARD !!
WELL, BOYS... WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET HER TO TELL ME WHERE THE DRUGS ARE!
KRAK.
FWHOMP
Y... YOU!


WHAT THE HELL ?!
STOMP HIM !
AIEE !
HEY, BOSS... HE HAD THE DRUGS !
EH? WELL, WELL... GIVE THEM TO ME !
N-NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
YOU--
WHY DID YOU BRING THE DRUGS WITH YOU, YOU INCOMPETENT, BRAINLESS DWEEB ?!?
NOW THEY CAN DO ANYTHING WITH US !!
WELL, ER... I THOUGHT, YOU KNOW, IF I GAVE THEM THE DRUGS THEY'D LET YOU GO WITHOUT HURTING YOU...
YOU THINK THESE GUYS ARE THAT NICE?! LOOK AT THEM!!
SHE'S RIGHT, LITTLE FELLA.
WE'LL BE HANGING ONTO THE YOUNG LADY FOR A WHILE, FOR FUN. AS FOR YOU...
WELL, I THINK WE'LL PUT YOU IN A PICKLE BARREL SOMEWHERE.
DRUGS
P-PICKLE BARREL...?


Heh heh... I NEVER GET TIRED OF THIS SWEET WHITE POWDER...
SHSSS
SHSSS
SHSSS
I DROOL AT THE SIGHT...
AND SO...
IN THAT CASE...
CHOW TIME!!
gulp
gulp
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
WHA-- WHAT THE HELL ?!
OOOHH... WHAT A LUCKY GUY!!
MAN, CAN YOU BELIEVE THE BOSS?
60 BILLION D/D DOWN THE OLD GULLET...

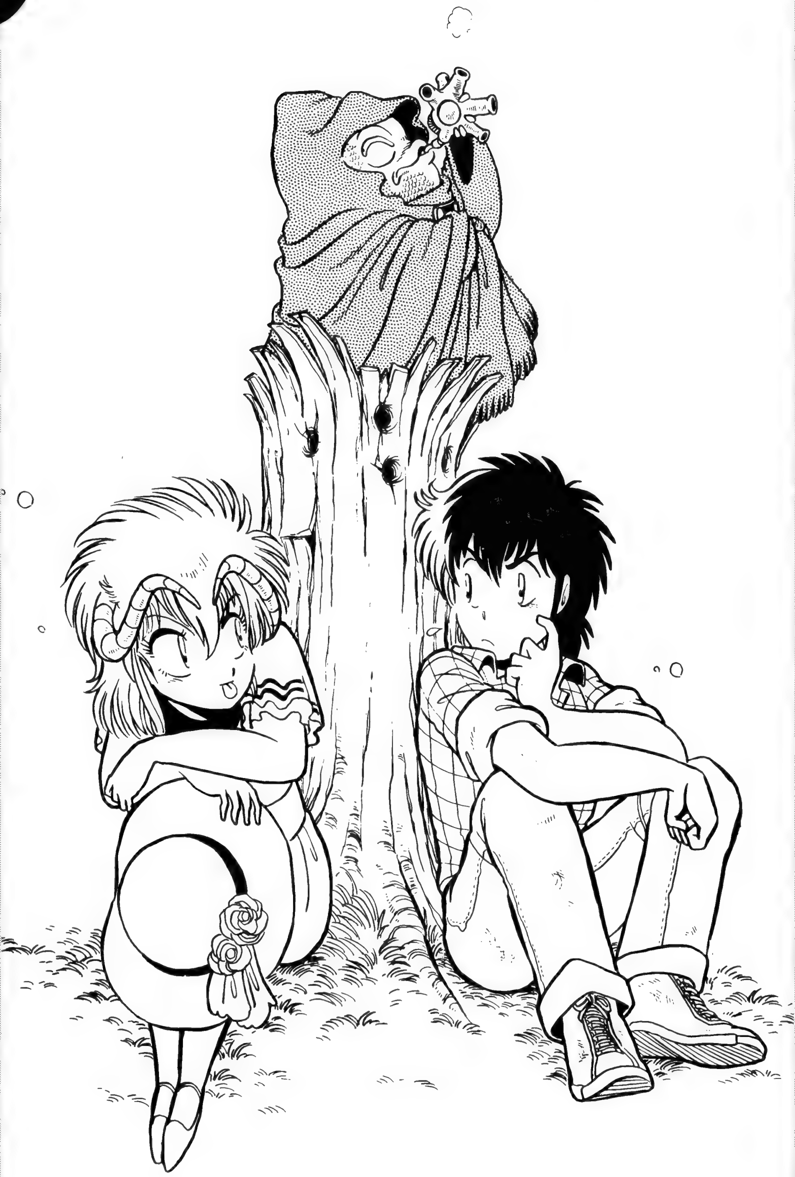

YOU...
YOU...
YOU'RE CRAZY!! WHOEVER HEARD OF EATING DRUGS ?!
DELICIOUS!
Ho Ho Ho... OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE NO GOURMET, MY DEAR.
mnch mnch
SKRASSH
?
RMBRMBRMB
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE DRUG PREVENTION ACT!!
!!

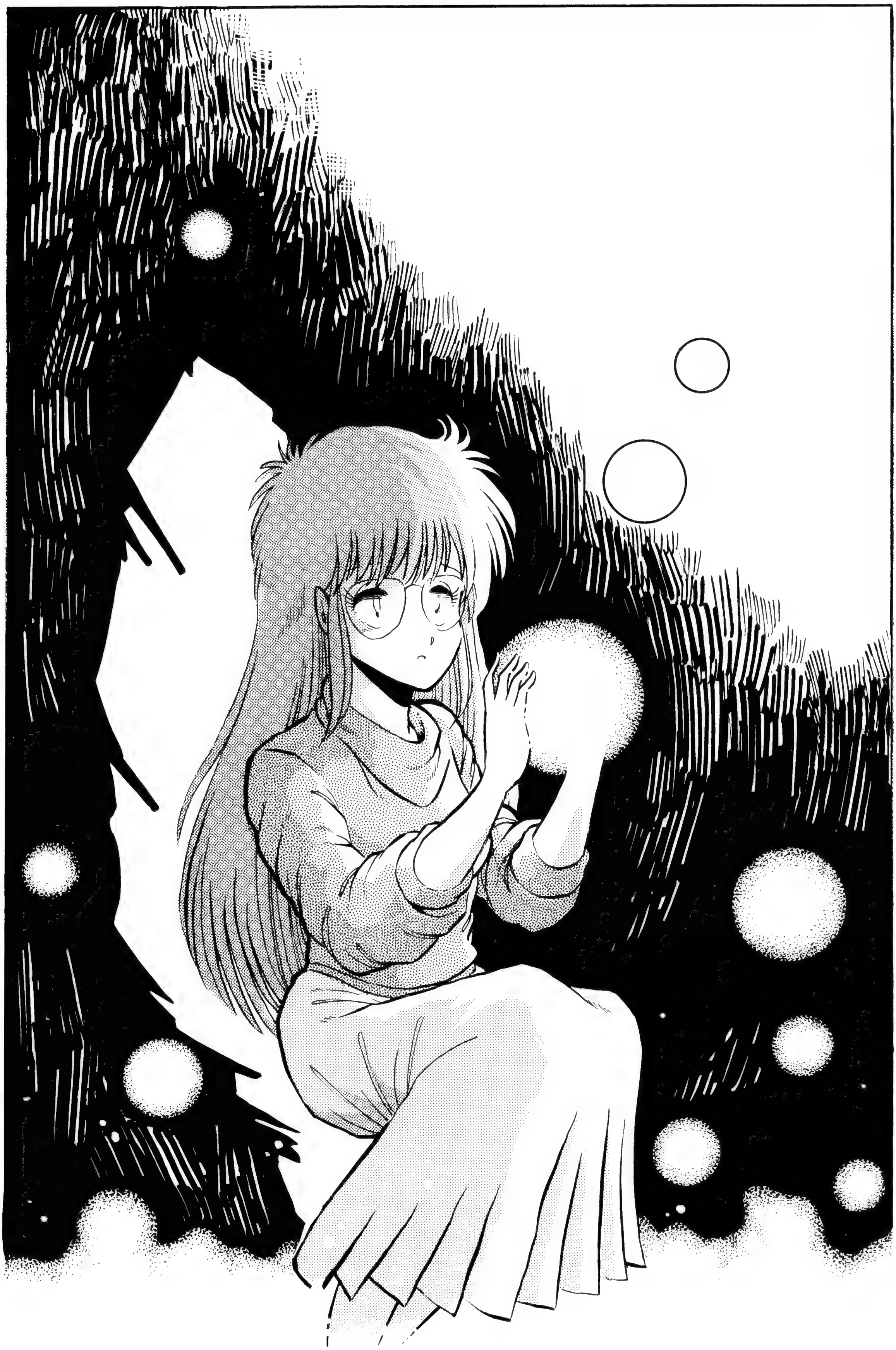

WELL, WE MANAGED TO GET AWAY IN ALL THE CONFUSION, BUT...
...*NOW* WHAT DO WE DO?
NOTHIN'! *NOTHIN'!!* THE DEAL'S BLOWN... ALL THAT WORK FOR *NOTHIN'*!!
GUESS I'LL STOW AWAY ON SOME TRAMP FREIGHTER AND TRY A DIFFERENT PLANET.
ER...EXCUSE ME, BUT WHEN WILL YOU PAY ME BACK...?
HEY, I DON'T HAVE A DIME! LET ME OFF, ALREADY!
OH *NO* YOU DON'T!!
RRARG!
YOW! I GET IT, I GET IT!!
YOU *PROMISED!* REMEMBER, A LIE IS THE FIRST STEP DOWN THE ROAD TO *PERDITION!!*
SO WHAT CAN I DO...?
♫
SO HOW ABOUT MY BODY? IT'S WORTH *THAT MUCH* AT LEAST!
I WANT MY MONEY...

END: THE FRONTIER

OUTLANDERS™

GALLERY





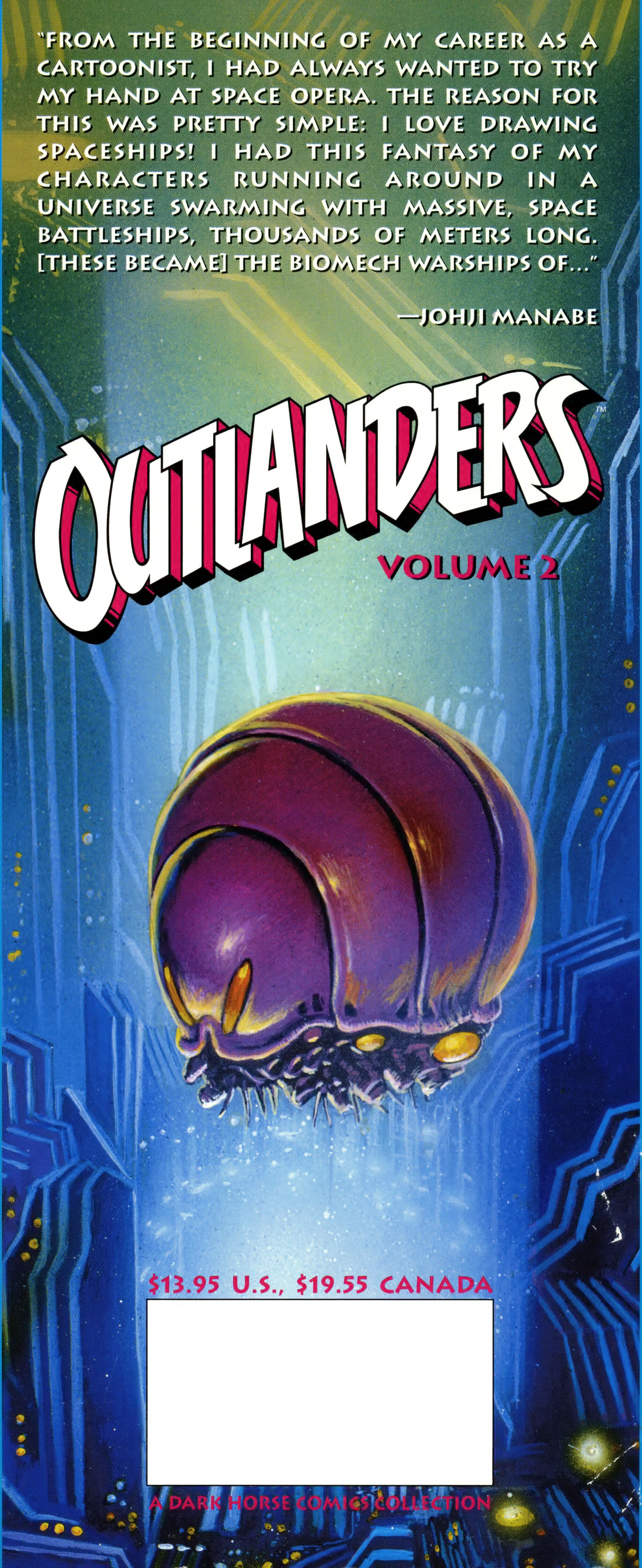
OUTLANDERS
BOOK VII

"FROM THE BEGINNING OF MY CAREER AS A CARTOONIST, I HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY MY HAND AT SPACE OPERA. THE REASON FOR THIS WAS PRETTY SIMPLE: I LOVE DRAWING SPACESHIPS! I HAD THIS FANTASY OF MY CHARACTERS RUNNING AROUND IN A UNIVERSE SWARMING WITH MASSIVE, SPACE BATTLESHIPS, THOUSANDS OF METERS LONG. [THESE BECAME] THE BIOMECH WARSHIPS OF..."

—JOHJI MANABE

OUTLANDERS™

VOLUME 2



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